MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MARCH 1986

Champs Elysees Bombing Claimed

The "Committee of Solidarity With Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners in Europe" claimed responsibility for the 20 March bombing of a Champs Elysees shopping gallery that killed 2 people and injured about 30 others, Paris radio reported. A spokesman for the group told the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio that there will be further bombings in the streets of Paris unless France releases three of the group's "strugglers" being held in French prisons. The spokesman said that while the group regrets the death of innocent people, it considers French citizens to be the "dispensable victims" of their government's policies. He also warned that the "streets and citizens of Rome" would be attacked unless Italy released two of the group's "strugglers."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes destroyed two Iranian bridges over the Karun River 21 March, according to a military statement reported by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by the radio earlier claimed that Iraqi planes attacked another "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast as well as a television relay station and gas station near Shadegan 20 March. In separate reports, INA cited Lloyd's insurance company announcements that a Cypriot and a Liberian oil tanker were hit in missile attacks near Khark Island 20 March.

Meanwhile, Iranian planes attacked an Iraqi Army headquarters "deep inside" Iraqi territory 20 March, according to an Iranian military communique cited by IRNA. In another development, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps minister claimed that the fall of the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr and its naval base is "imminent," IRNA reported.

Egypt-Israel

President Husni Mubarak offered sincere condolences to Israel over the 19 March shooting incident outside the Cairo trade fair that left one Israeli dead and three others wounded, MENA reported, citing remarks by the Egyptian tourism minister. In a meeting with the Israeli tourism minister, Mubarak called the attack by gunmen the work of an "extremist minority," and stressing his desire for strengthened Egyptian-Israeli relations he ordered the remaining travel restrictions between the two countries to be lifted, MENA added. Beirut radio later reported that Egyptian authorities have given permission for an Israeli team to take part in the investigations.

In another development, MENA reported that the fifth round of the Taba talks ended in Cairo 20 March. The Egyptian delegation spokesman told MENA that the delegations made "reasonably good progress" on procedural issues related to the "arbitral compromis" and said that the next round of talks will be held in Israel in the middle of next week.

Egypt-USSR

People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub met with a visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Pavel Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, MENA reported. Gilashvili said the USSR is anxious to expand relations with Egypt "in all spheres," while Al-Mahjub declared that Egypt is "eager" to develop its relations with the USSR, the report added.

King Husayn Discusses PLO Ties in Egypt

King Husayn returned to Jordan following a 1-day visit to Egypt, Amman television reported. After his 4-hour meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo 20 March, King Husayn said Jordanian efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East have reached a "dead end," adding that "we and all the concerned parties in the area are now observing a period of contemplation," MENA reported. The king further remarked that there has been "nothing new" in Jordanian-PLO relations since Jordan halted political coordination with the PLO 19 February.

PLO-Syria

The PLO has decided to "turn over a new leaf" with Syria, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in an interview with the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I* that was reported by Abu Dhabi radio. 'Arafat expressed his hope that Palestinian-Syrian meetings would succeed, adding that for its part the PLO has halted "Media Campaigns." In a related development, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi announced that the Syrian stance toward the PLO "has improved compared to what it was previously." In an interview with *Al-'ARAB reported by Kuna, Qaddummi said "the way is being* paved" toward good PLO-Syrian relations.

Opec Affairs

The 13 OPEC countries meeting in Geneva have thus far reached no agreement on oil production cuts, OPEC Conference President Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said in remarks reported by AFP. Hernandez admitted that the meeting has been "very difficult" but said the OPEC countries are willing to continue their discussions until a "solution" is reached, AFP added. The News agency earlier reported that Iraq has rejected its previously allotted production quota and noted that the Saudi oil minister has reaffirmed that the Kingdom is no longer prepared to adjust its output according to swings in demand for OPEC oil. In Tehran, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i told the visiting Syrian foreign minister that Opec will 'act decisively" to reject oil prices "imposed" by its 'enemies."

Sudan-Ethiopia

The delegations of Sudan's National Alliance for National Salvation and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) held their opening meeting in Addis Ababa 20 March, the clandestine SPLA radio reported, adding that SPLA commander in Chief John Garang attended the opening ceremony. SUNA later reported that the "situation deteriorated" when the National Alliance delegation unanimously opposed the presence of Mansur Khalid, a minister under former President Ja'far Numayri, as a delegation member for the SPLA side.

In Khartoum, the deputy commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces said that Sudan has filed several complaints to Ethiopia through diplomatic channels over Ethiopian planes' violation of Sudanese airspace 18 March and he claimed that the planes were carrying supplies to SPLA forces, SUNA reported.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan lodged a "strong protest" with the DRA charge d'affaires in Pakistan over Afghan air attacks on a border post and refugee camp in Khurram Agency which killed 6 people and injured 22 others 16 and 18 March, Karachi radio reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 055 *21 March 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Economic Commission Protocol Signed With USSR ..... C 1
DRA Issues Decree on Nonpayment of Land Taxes ..... C 1
Oslo Paper Interviews Afghan Guerrilla Leader *[ARBEIDERBLADET 11 Mar]* ..... C 1
Oppositionist Responds to APN Article ..... C 3

BANGLADESH

Ershad Briefs Armed Forces Chiefs on Elections ..... D 1
Pledges Elections on Schedule ..... D 1
Opposition Leaders Make Joint Call for Poll Boycott *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Opposition Demonstrates Against Elections *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Opposition Alliance Groups Hold Joint Meeting *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 18 Mar]* ..... D 2
Hasina Urges Ershad To Learn Lesson from Marcos ..... D 2
Soviet Official Notes Decline in Trade Since 1981 ..... D 2

INDIA

Rajiv Gandhi Receives Sri Lankan High Commissioner *[Colombo]* ..... E 1
Rao Reelected General Secretary of CPI ..... E 1
Reportage on Violence, Police Response in Punjab ..... E 1
Police Crack Down on Militants *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Security Tightened ..... E 1
Militant Sikhs Stage Protest *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Militants Blockade State Assembly *[AFP]* ..... E 1
2 Killed in Police Firing ..... E 2
AFP: Further on Violence ..... E 2
Bomb Blast Rocks House of Former Finance Minister ..... E 2
Delhi Domestic on Pakistan's Zia To Stay in Office ..... E 2
Scientific Cooperation Program With CSSR Finalized ..... E 2
AFP: Police Break International Drug Syndicate ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

President Ziaul Haq Grants UK Television Interview ..... F 1
Protest Lodged Over Afghan Bombing in Khurram ..... F 5
Further on Visit of Polish Deputy Foreign Minister ..... F 5
Calls on Yaqub Khan ..... F 5
Departs After 'Useful' Talks ..... F 5
Opposition Official Warns of U.S. Naval Presence *[JANG 16 Mar]* ..... F 5
NAWA-E WAQT Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Interview *[17 Mar]* ..... F 5
JASARAT on 'Deterioriating' Law and Order Situation *[15 Mar]* ..... F 7
Improved Chances for Nuclear Plant Reported *[DAWN 12 Mar]* ..... F 7
Northwest Frontier Poppy Growers Shot Dead *[THE MUSLIM 11 Mar]* ..... F 7

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Prime Minister Resigns, New Government Formed ..... G 1
Bahadur Resigns *[AFP]* ..... G 1

New Government Members Named *[AFP]* ..... G 1
New Government Sworn in *[AFP]* ..... G 1
Announces 'Productive Oriented' Plan *[AFP]* ..... G 1
PRC Officials Leave After Conducting Trade Talks *[AFP]* ..... G 2

SRI LANKA

Parliament Approves Extension of State of Emergency *[Colombo]* ..... G 2
Jayewardene Says Political Solution Unworkable *[Delhi]* ..... G 2
Paper Criticizes Gandhi's Remarks on Ethnic Issue *[Colombo DAILY NEWS 8 Mar]* ..... G 2
Terrorists Said Preparing To Move Arms to North *[Colombo]* ..... G 3
Reportage on Fighting Between Tamils, Soldiers ..... G 3
19 Die in 21 Mar Clash *[AFP]* ..... G 3
'Terrorists' Killed in Kilinochchi *[Colombo]* ..... G 3
Delhi Report *[Delhi]* ..... G 4
Tamils Blow Up Navy Boat, Kill 25 *[AFP]* ..... G 4
Government Denies Vessel Sunk *[AFP]* ..... G 4
Troops Kill 15 in Vavuniya *[Delhi]* ..... G 4
4 'Terrorists' Killed, 17 Captured *[Colombo]* ..... G 4

IRAN

Messages Addressed to Nation on New Year's Day ..... I 1
Khomeyni Appears on TV ..... I 1
Tehran Cites Khameyni Address ..... I 1
Khamene'i Cites Victories ..... I 2
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on War With Iraq ..... I 2
Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Visits Tehran ..... I 5
Arrives With Al-Asad Message ..... I 5
Meets With Musavi ..... I 5
Discusses OPEC With Khamene'i ..... I 5
Foreign Affairs Ministry Sends Note to UN on Iraq ..... I 6
Charge to Muscat Meets With Omani Oil Minister ..... I 6
Charge to Harare Meets Zimbabwean Minister ..... I 6
Greek Police Officer Taps Diplomat's Phone ..... I 7
International Atomic Energy Agency Approves Proposal ..... I 7
Women Marchers Proclaim Support for Combatant ..... I 7
'Numerous' People Said Killed in Iraqi Clampdown ..... I 7
Kurdish 'Revolutionaries' Kill 20 Iraqi Troops ..... I 8
Iraq Continues 'Oppressive Policies' Toward Kurds ..... I 8
Iraqi Kurds Reportedly Attack Government Troops ..... I 8
Editorial Warns Iraq's Allies on Continued Support *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 16 Feb]* ..... I 8
Commentary Examines French Relations With Iraq ..... I 9
IRGC Minister Says Fall of Umm Qasr 'Imminent' ..... I 9
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 9
Al-Faw Penetration Attempt Foiled ..... I 9
Command Headquarters Destroyed ..... I 10
Communique No 2415 ..... I 10
Iraq Bombs Khuzestan Village ..... I 10
'Limited Offensive' in Mehran ..... I 10
Khatam ol-Anbiya' Communique No 25 ..... I 10
Areas in Ahvaz Reportedly Damaged by Iraqi Attacks *[Voice of the Liberation]* ..... I 11
Clandestine Notes Conflicts Among Armed Forces *[Radio Iran]* ..... I 11
Lebanon's Fadlallah Comments on Al-Jumayyil's Rule ..... I 12
Afghan Mujahidin Attack Government-Soviet Troops ..... I 12
In Ghazni, Paktika ..... I 12
In Nangahar ..... I 12

Economic Commission Protocol Signed With USSR

LD210752 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, 20 Mar (BAKHTAR) — A protocol on working visits between the Afghan and Soviet sectors of the DRA-USSR permanent Economic Cooperation Commission was signed today at the DRA State Planning Committee.

Sarwar Mangal, DRA Council of Ministers vice chairman, and State Planning Committee head signed the protocol for the Afghan side and Khusyalov, assistant to the commission Soviet sector [as received] for [the Soviet side].

Both sides expressed full satisfaction with the progress of work in joint USSR-DRA cooperation projects, and in view of that positive assessment, and the decisions and resolutions emanating from the Afghan-Soviet Permanent Economic Cooperation Commission's fifth session, once again issued instructions on accelerating the tasks of both sides' enterprises for strengthening and consolidating the material and immaterial pillars of the glorious April Revolution.

A commission spokesman said that on the basis of the great Soviet country's material and technical assistance, 65 development projects in the fields of industry, transport, mines, energy, agriculture, and irrigation, supply of foodstuffs, public health, and other social services will be promoted which, as a consequence of such project's formidable gains, will accelerate the processes of national economic development and remedy economic backwardness with every passing day.

The USSR's share in assistance for such projects in the current year in comparison with total foreign assistance equals 70 percent.

During the year beginning 21 March 1985, the construction work of major projects such as the Kamaz major repair workshop in Kabul Jangalak factories; transport center for petroleum tankers in Daht-e Chemtala [Balkh Province]; Kamaz transport enterprises; the first stage of Kabul airport's expansion and reconstruction; polyclinic of the civil servants medical assurance; a laboratory complex for analyzing useful solid substances; [word indistinct] Mazar-e Sharif Silo; a transmission power line between Mazar-e Sharif and the Soviet border; and 840 residential apartments in the Microrayon [Kabul suburb], are being completed and utilized.

As a result of an improvement in work organization in the ministries, departments, and in Afghan-Soviet enterprises, the foundation has been prepared for a further attraction of Soviet assistance which is already 5 percent above the plan.

On the eve of the new year, the permanent commission has conducted friendly talks and an understanding has been reached to implement measures for the convocation of a sixth session whereby the share of Soviet assistance for development projects will rise to 80 percent of total foreign assistance.

The development of the petroleum and gas industries, electric power energy, supply of foodstuffs, expansion and renovation of irrigation systems, as well as the provision of facilities for the social services, are at the center of that assistance.

DRA Issues Decree on Nonpayment of Land Taxes

LD202250 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium: dated 30/12/1364 [20 March 1986] concerning the dropping of fines on taxes against peasants and farmers:

The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, in order to raise the standard of living and welfare of peasants, in consideration of the great role played by the peasants in the development of the country's national economy, approves that:

Article 1: The fines emanating from the nonpayment on time of land taxes, which have been owed by the peasants and farmers of the country between the years 1360 [1981-1982] and the end of 1364 [ended on 20 March 1986] and which amount to more than 2,564.8 million afghani, are dropped in the following manner: Those peasants and farmers, who are in debt due to taxes on land between the years 1360 [1981-1982] and the end of 1364 [ended 20 March 1986] will be exempted from paying fines provided they pay the main amount due between 1365 [begins 21 March 1986] until 1366 [21 March 1987] in installments. Their fines will be dropped in proportion to the payment of the main amount of land tax owed by them.

Article 2: The local organs of the state power and administration should take measures towards providing conditions for the complete implementation of Article 1 of this decree.

Article 3: Broad and effective publicity should be launched by themass media in explaining the aims of this decree.

Article 4: This decree is enforced as from the date of its approval and should be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium

Oslo Paper Interviews Afghan Guerrilla Leader

PM131643 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 11 Mar 86 p 16

[Interview with Afghan guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Masud by Borje Almqvist; date, place not given]

[Text] "We try to do our best to help those who have become poor. Because our resources have diminished and are limited and are not sufficient for both the front and for civilians. We have not been able to help the population as we ought to have done," the legendary guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Masud told me in an interview in the Panjsher Valley in Afghanistan.

Masud has been called Afghanistan's Tito, the most influential and admired of the liberation movement's leaders inside

Afghanistan and a man whom many people believe will be able to unite the resistance movement against the Soviet Union.

Ahmad Shah Masud walked in through the door with quick steps. Everyone rose to show their respect. It is a well loved and respected 31-year-old who leads the liberation movement in northern Afghanistan.

Masud's arrival at the house was announced only 10 minutes before he walked in through the door. No one knows in advance when the "the leader" or "the man" as he is called by the population is on the move. Masud is high on the KGB's and the Afghan KHAD secret police's death list. In the past he has lived through attempts on his life and has escaped by the skin of his teeth.

Once Masud has sat down and all in the room have taken their places along the walls Masud begins to talk to those present. He asks questions, makes jokes, and treats high and low as equals.

It is a relaxed gathering around the leader who is without the condescensions common among the traditional leadership in this part of the world. But Masud is no traditional leader.

Masud was first elected leader of the Panjsher Valley because he had shown himself to be a brave fighter and clever strategist in the struggle against the Soviet aggressor. Since then his influence has grown. Today he is commander in chief of Jamiyat-e Eslami in 7 of Afghanistan's 28 provinces.

Last summer he showed proof of his courage and initiative. He and a group of guerrilla soldiers were suddenly encircled one morning in a valley by Soviet elite commandos. The guerrillas did not think it was possible to escape. Masud took up his automatic carbine and led a successful counterattack and broke through the encirclement.

Prior to my personal contacts with him and my visit to the Panjsher Valley I was very suspicious of Masud — a popular mass media figure. Everyone had been looking for a hero, a man who could be a future leader of the country and they had found this man in Masud.

After meeting him on several occasions over a week and talking to him, interviewing him, and answering Masud's questions on international topics to do with Afghanistan — what happened at the youth festival in Moscow and what the Swedes and their government think about the invasion of Afghanistan — my suspicions have vanished.

Perhaps I have met a hero — a man able to unite the resistance to the Soviet Army of invasion. At any rate I have met a very intelligent and quick-thinking guerrilla leader, one who gave the impression of being the most competent among all the leaders I have met from all parts of Afghanistan.

Ahmad Shah Masud (Shah is an honorary title the people have given him) is very young by Afghan standards. He is a modern guerrilla warfare strategist. He plans operations and strategy long in advance. Nothing is left to chance. For several years Masud and his young aides have also taken on the civilian population's welfare as well as civilian and military questions.

During the interview which took place a few days after our first meeting Masud was as usual a little restless. He pushed his hat back and forth on his head. It was often so far back on his head that it was a wonder it stayed on.

His replies came rapidly. When he was not satisfied with the replies, he asked to be allowed to go over them again, so that they would be exhaustive.

"The Panjsher Valley is divided into 22 'karargas' (guerrilla bases). Each 'kararga' is a base for military activities and for political and civilian rule. Each 'kararga' has mujahidin who are responsible for the war, and young boys join the mujahidin voluntarily," Masud told me.

On the military side the bases in the mujahidin are divided up for various special tasks. The motto is "the right man in the right job."

"They are divided into 'montaqawi' (local sections) and 'zarbati' (attack groups). The members of attacks groups are young men chosen for groups each comprising 30 men."

As well as being divided in this way people are included in smaller guerrilla groups. These are bombing groups, units for heavier arms such as antiaircraft guns, mortars, and light artillery, and groups for communications and contacts with other groups in the valley.

"We also have another type of mujahidin group called 'motahareq' — mobile groups. Brave and experienced mujahidin are chosen from all 'iarargas' for these groups. We have a supreme military commander for all these groups.

"In each base we have someone responsible for finance and someone responsible for the military side of things. They are under the control of the 'kararga' commandant.

"We only use Islamic law. We practice Islam in all our activities and behavior. We use the sharia — Islamic law — in all our work and in tackling all problems." For Masud and his guerrillas Islam is of great importance in their struggle.

"Each movement and each revolution has goals and intentions which the people follow. They fight and struggle toward this objective. Our goal is the practice of Islam over the whole of Afghanistan."

Masud makes no attempt to hide the fact that this objective has demanded sacrifices on the part of the civilian population. On the contrary:

"Because of constant attacks and bombing by the Russians, people have had to seek refuge elsewhere. Fortunately those who have left have remained in Afghanistan. Only a few have emigrated to Pakistan. Some live in the Panjsher Valley, and the majority live elsewhere in Afghanistan."

The situation is precarious for the civilian population.

"As you can see, most houses and regions in the Panjsher Valley have been destroyed by repeated Soviet attacks and the many years of fighting. People have been unable to cultivate their land, and first and foremost they need help to get food. Then we need aid for doctors, and medicines."

In military terms the situation is different.

"We have almost enough handguns. Thanks to a few years of almost continual fighting against the Russians in Afghanistan, we have captured quite a large number of weapons and enough ammunition from the enemy. The problem is heavy weaponry and ammunition for it — that is something we have never had enough of," Masud said.

Masud did not want to say exactly how many weapons have been captured and how many come from Pakistan. But he makes no secret of where the guerrillas get money for food and other nonmilitary equipment.

"First and foremost we get our stores in the form of booty. In the Salang region (a mountainous area north of Kabul through which all Soviet convoys with supplies for the capital must pass) we capture food such as wheat, oil, sugar, and so on, and we send this to the front."

This amounts to one-third of what we get in. A further third is income from taxes from the lapis lazuli and emerald mines.

"We also received 5 percent of the salaries of state officials. The section of the population from Panjsher living in Kabul also helps us, just like the businessmen throughout the country when they are able to. The aid we receive from Pakistan and from foreign organizations is much too small to cover all our outgoings."

The aid from Pakistan is the economic support which the Panjsher front's party, Jami'at-e Eslami, sends to Panjsher. It covers a mere 4.5 percent of what it costs to keep the guerrillas in food and clothing.

There is still fighting between different resistance groups here and there, but not as often as before between Jamiyat-e Eslami and the rival Hezb-e Eslami. Instead, there is conflict within Hezb-e Eslami.

Within the Panjsher area there is great unity. Important questions are thoroughly discussed democratically before decisions are made.

Oppositionist Responds to APN Article

PM201400 [Editorial Report] Paris *LE FIGARO MAGAZINE* in French 15-21 March 1986 carries on pages 64 to 72 a 3,000-word APN article on Afghanistan with interpolated comments made by Major Amin Wardak of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan while on a visit to France. The text of the APN article and Wardak's comments is as follows:

"The Soviet Text:

"Anybody who has ever seen Afghanistan cannot be indifferent to the charm of its mountains, its valleys with their isolated villages, its breathtaking canyons, and its pure air. Even the desert areas in the southwest are attractive, with their soft pastel colors and their green village oases surrounded by fields under cultivation. A courageous, industrious, and proud people live in this beautiful country with a turbulent history.

"Before the April 1978 Revolution, Afghanistan was a feudal country which lived in a different age, with illiteracy and disease. It had the lowest standard of living in the world, high infant mortality, and religious and ethnic struggles. Per capita income was less than $150 per year. According to statistical information in Afghanistan published in Kabul in December 1979, Afghanistan had 15 million inhabitants and 3,728 schools giving a general education, including 273 for girls. There was 1 doctor for every 16,000 people and 1 hospital bed for every 4,980 people.

"The Afghan Reply:

"Afghanistan, my country, in fact has a civilization which is more than 5,000 years old and the legendary welcome of its inhabitants seduced visitors who stayed there, from Alexander the Great to Joseph Kessel.

"The country was certainly one of the poorest in the world, but Sunni Islam, practiced in a serene way by its inhabitants, was not seen as a constraint and it set the pace for the essentially peasant life of some 16 million Afghans.

"In recent decades my country gradually opened up to the world without any upheaval. Health care was being organized. Education was spreading rapidly. For instance, in 20 years between 1951 and 1972 the number of schools in Afghanistan increased tenfold, increasing from 378 to 3,972. They included the French lycee in Kabul which I attended. It is now closed. The communist coup and then the Soviet invasion of my country abruptly stopped this process. All the cooperation programs launched with many European countries stopped. The development which Afghanistan was undertaking was replaced by bombings, famine, exile, and war.

"The Soviet Text:

"Since April 1978, in accordance with the treaties of aid and good-neighborly relations, the USSR has give large amounts of aid to Afghanistan since the establishment of a pro-Soviet government. A network of roads, tunnels, irrigation structures, and industrial enterprises forms an incomplete list of the aid supplied by the USSR. The Western nations and the United States were fully informed of the very difficult conditions Afghanistan was experiencing. Nonetheless, at that time the U.S. president, Congress, and the leaders of Western Europe did not try to help Afghanistan in any way. Proof of that can be found in a report from the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan before the revolution. In his telegram to the secretary of state on 30 January 1978, Ambassador Eliot sent his analysis of the situation in 1977 and commented: 'The Soviets are avoiding giving the impression of interfering in external Afghan affairs and are maintaining their

position as the main supplier of aid (more than $1 billion over the past 25 years as opposed to less than $500 million from the United States).'

"Ambassador Eliot could not have imagined his report being published. In November 1979, when the U.S. Embassy was held hostage in Iran, the correspondence between the secretary of state's office and the embassies was published.

"The Afghan Reply:

"With hindsight it is easy to see that the Soviets' whole cooperation program in Afghanistan was designed to prepare for the invasion on 27 December 1979. They trained military and political administrators, infiltrated the army, and opened up roads and tunnels facilitating troop movements between the Soviet Union and Kabul (the road between Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif, including the construction of the Salang tunnel, was opened by the Soviets and forms the main supply route for the Soviet troops). In addition, Soviet aid was not free. In exchange for their aid they obtained a monopoly of Afghan gas supplies — the country's main resource — at a ridiculously low price....

"On the other hand, cooperation with the European countries and the United Nations was conducted in a climate of friendship and no Afghan had reason to complain about those aid workers, who had no desire to annex our country.

"The Soviet Text:

"The April Revolution radically changed the situation in Afghanistan. It generated unprecedented political and social activity in that country. Every revolution produces a counterrevolution, and Afghanistan was no exception to the rule. These crafty and unscrupulous counterrevolutionaries hated innovation and progress and were prepared to do anything: to murder and perpetrate attacks.... Before the April Revolution they were not interested in Afghanistan and its population. But after the revolution they became Islam's supporters and the counterrevolutionaries' allies.

"Despite the resistance of the counterrevolutionaries aided by foreign countries, the Afghan revolution progressed. What is the situation in Afghanistan? What plans does the government have for the country? The most important point in recent years was the November declaration made by the DRA Revolutionary Council aimed at cooperation among the Afghan political forces to normalize the situation. These decisions show the Afghan leaders' political realism and their readiness to make some compromises.

"Recently an election campaign took place in Afghanistan to elect the members of local governments and the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders is a traditional form of democracy for local government.

"Agrarian reform is under way. The law on agrarian reform was one of the first to be passed by the government after the April Revolution. Landless peasants and those who were cultivating small plots received land from the government and land confiscated from big landowners. They also received water, seed, and equipment. Cooperatives were set up. This reform was not improvised. At the end of 1985 ownership deeds were distributed to 311 families in the (Dowtalabad Andhoi) and Faryab Districts; to 120 families in the (Anjil) District; and to 110 families in Takhar Province. In all, 320,000 families received 1.7 million jeribs of land (1 jerib equals 0.42 hectare).

"The Afghan Reply:

"What in Marxist terms Soviet journalists call the 'April 1978 Revolution' was in fact merely a military coup carried out by a tiny minority of intellectuals with Moscow's blessing. To every military coup, every dictatorship, and every military invasion there is a corresponding peoples' reaction and a patriotic resistance. My people reacted in a healthy way. The fact that the Soviets describe our mujahidin as counterrevolutionary bandits is the result of stereotyped and hackneyed language and also of crude propaganda. During the dark years which your country experienced between 1940 and 1944 I belive the German occupier behaved in an identical way toward your resistance fighters!

"There are indeed bandits in Afghanistan. They are the few thousand communists collaborating in a servile way with the Soviet occupier. They are shut in their offices, surrounded and protected by the Red Army forces, cut off from their country's real situation, and responsible for the saddest hours of my people's history. The puppet regime in Kabul has no popular support. It is artificially maintained by the Soviet occupiers and if the latter were to withdraw it would only remain in power for a few hours.

"Since the Soviet invasion war is present throughout the country, it goes without saying that all the projects discussed by the Kabul and Moscow press are pure fiction and only exist on paper.

"In the agrarian sphere the real situation is that our crops, our harvests, and our irrigation canals are systematically destroyed by Soviet air raids. My compatriots, deprived of the basic means of subsistence and driven to desperation by hunger, are forced into exile, and Afghanistan's villages are being deserted. These are the 'benefits of the April Revolution' for the Afghans.

"The Soviet Text:

"The Afghan Government attaches great importance to public education. In Afghanistan today 15 dailies, 21 weeklies, and 40 magazines are published. The Education Ministry itself has published 907,330 books on 47 general education subjects.

"In 1981 a department for young workers was set up at Kabul University. For the first time in Afghanistan's history the children of workers and young workers were able to benefit from higher education. A technical secondary school is also operating. It provides graduates for the young republic's industry. Kabul radio broadcasts programs in several local languages. Radio stations have been opened in all provinces.

"Great attention is being paid to religion. Everybody knows that the counterrevolutionary forces have used pseudo-Islamic slogans which have little to do with the traditional Islam practiced in Afghanistan. The Afghan Government admits that

Afghanistan is a Muslim country in the sense that a large majority of the population practices this religion and that the rites of the country are steeped in it. In addition, the government is convinced that the revolution's goals do not conflict with Islam's principles of justice and equality. The government is helping to repair and build mosques. It is taking an interest in the treatment of mullahs and in the mullahs in the army.

"The Afghan Army developed in the struggle against the counterrevolution. The number of PDPA members in the army is growing. Some 62 percent of its members are in the army. The army's structure and its efficiency and the training of soldiers have been improved. This is the situation in the young Afghan republic. This situation requires even more effort and vigilance from the country's patriotic and national forces.

"The Afghan Reply:

"With regard to teaching and education the picture is the same. The secondary schools in the big cities have been closed. The rural schools have been destroyed by bombs dropped from Soviet Migs. Thousands of children have been deported to the Soviet Union. This is the 'educational progress' of which the Soviets and their Kabul henchmen boast. In the health care sphere the hospitals set up by the resistance are one of the Red Air Force's preferred targets. The international Red Cross is not allowed to operate in Afghanistan. The only support we have is that given by French associations which, despite the risks run by the doctors and nurses, have no hesitation in coming to cure our sick and care for our wounded.

"In Afghanistan we are deeply attached to our religion. The mullahs Kabul is using for its propaganda are pseudo-clerics paid for acting a part. On the other hand, one of the first measures taken by the Afghan Communist Government was to try and remove green, Islam's color, from the Afghan national flag. Since the Soviet invasion, not a day has passed without our mosques being profaned by bombs, our Koran being sullied, or our cemeteries being wrecked. In Wardak Province the Soviets launched an offensive in October 1985. Some 250 Afghans — men women, and children — were killed and 5 mosques were destroyed. A mullah's library was burned. An old man was beaten to death by Soviet commandos. Every minute of every day Afghanistan is the proving ground for the most terrifying weapons. Innocent victims succumb to mines, bombs, missiles, and torture. One typical example of atrocities is the case of 14-year-old Muhammad Nabi from Wardak Province, who was abducted by the Soviets and first held for ransom, then tortured to death by being deprived of water, mutilated by kicking and stabbing with a bayonet, garroted, and executed with a Kalashnikov.

"These are the 'benefits' and 'progress' which the Soviet occupiers are inflicting on my people! The Afghan resistance is waging a just fight for our homeland to restore freedom. It is not just our fight. It concerns all peace-loving men in the world. Today Afghanistan is in darkness; but we know that the sun will rise on our liberated country tomorrow."

The APN article and Afghan comments are accompanied by six photographs, each with a Soviet caption and a comment provided by Amin Wardak. The first photograph shows a burning convoy of trucks on a mountain road with a tank and seven men in military uniform armed with guns. The Soviet caption reads: "Trucks are a favorite target for the counterrevolutionaries from abroad: they burn the trucks and destroy their load." The Afghan caption reads: "The north road linking Kabul with the Soviet Union is the Soviet Army's supply route. This is the road taken by supply convoys, particularly those carrying fuel for the Soviet tanks and aircraft. No convoy from the USSR is safe from attack by the mujahidin."

The second photograph shows a damaged truck and a tank on a road with six armed men in military uniforms taking aim. The Soviet caption reads: "Gangs of terrorists from abroad try to disorganize the economy. Trucks are their favorite target. They mine the roads and launch grenade attacks. The Soviet troops help the Afghan Army to protect these roads. They escort convoys and help the army in case of attack." The Afghan caption reads: "The second photograph shows a damaged truck and a tank on a road with six armed men in military uniform taking aim.

The Soviet caption reads: "Gangs of terrorists from abroad try to disorganize the economy. Trucks are their favorite target. They mine the roads and launch grenade attacks. The Soviet troops help the Afghan Army to protect these roads. They escort convoys and help the army in case of attack." The Afghan caption reads: "The Soviet occupation Army tries to hold the roads. Despite a vast disproportion in resources, the Afghan resistance succeeds in dealing the Red Army harsh blows."

The third photograph shows armed men, some in military uniform, escorting five men with their hands tied behind their backs. The Soviet caption reads: "A defense detachment comprising local civilians has captured saboteurs from the so-called Islamic Party of Afghanistan. The population helps the army and militia to capture bandits from abroad." The Afghan caption reads: "This is misinformation. This photograph is taken from a Soviet movie showing a training session for communist militants and simulating the arrest of Afghan resistance fighters. The arrested 'saboteurs' are in fact militiamen posing for the camera!"

The fourth photograph shows three men in military uniform, one of whom has a star on his helmet and is kneeling down examining a pipeline, with a truck and an armored vehicle in the background. The Soviet caption reads: "Trucks are a favorite target for the counterrevolutionaries from abroad, they burn the trucks and destroy their load." [repetition of caption to first photograph presumabley in error]. The Afghan caption reads: "The Red Army is sowing terror in Afghanistan with its bombs, mines, and devastating offensives. The only 'foreigners' fighting in Afghanistan wear uniforms decorated with the red star: They are the Soviets." The fifth photograph is a long shot of a group of people sitting in lines on the ground facing a red booth behind which more people are seated. Red banners with inscriptions are on display. The Soviet caption reads: "Democratic elections have been held at local level for the first time in the country's history. Without exception, all citizens took part. The lack of a fixed abode is an important factor in this country, in which there are more than 3.5 million nomads." The Afghan caption reads: "To give itself the veneer of democracy, the Afghan communist

party holds elections exclusively for its own members; nobody votes in Afghanistan."

The sixth photograph shows a convoy of trucks on a road between rocky, snow-capped mountains. The Soviet caption reads: "Major roads are the only transport routes. Loads are transported in big trucks belonging to the AFSOIR, a Soviet-Afghan company set up in the sixties. Some 1,600-km of these roads have been constructed with Soviet help, including the 3km-long Salang tunnel." The Afghan caption reads: "The only public works carried out by the Soviets are designed to facilitate the invasion of Afghanistan: the USSR-Kabul road, the Salang tunnel (situated on that road), the Pagram military airport to the north of the Afghan capital, and so forth."

Ershad Briefs Armed Forces Chiefs on Elections

BK191547 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] President Ershad addressed the senior officers of the Armed Forces in Dhaka today. He apprised them of the efforts made by him to bring the opposition political parties to elections. The deputy chief martial law administrators, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, were also present.

Pledges Elections on Schedule

BK201618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has firmly reiterated that parliamentary elections will be held on schedule. Addressing a huge public meeting at (Khuliachar) in Kishorganj today, he said we are determined to hold the elections and we shall overcome whatever obstacles are there in our way in holding the elections. The president said he will not fail in discharging his responsibility to the nation and fulfilling his pledge to build a sound and stable democratic political system inthe country. Detailing his efforts in this regard, President Ershad said he postponed election dates thrice in the past only with the hope that good sense will prevail upon the major political parties to join the polls. But it appears from the behavior of these political parties that they do not believe in democratic accomodation and understanding. They want to impose their will on the people in the name of democracy.

The president said the political parties should seek the verdict of the electorate and on getting their opinion in their favor they should start working to ameliorate the condition of the people.

President Ershad went to (Khuliachar) on an unscheduled visit to this upzilla [subdivision] headquarters.

Opposition Leaders Make Joint Call for Poll Boycott

HK180926 Hong Kong AFP in English
0837 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 18 (AFP) -- The leaders of Bangladesh's two major opposition alliances have met for the first time in years, and called jointly for public resistance to parliamentary polls set for April 26.

The alliances, representing 15 and seven parties, issued the call in a joint statemetn late Monday, saying the polls were "designed to legalise the martial law government" of Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

"Those who will try to contest the polls will be considered as traitors to the nation and will be resisted," they said.

The statement followed a series of joint meetings of the top leaders of the alliances, the largest led by Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League and the other by Begum Khaleda Zia, in the past few days.

The meetings were their first in the past few years, as the groups have waged separate fights against the government.

Lt Gen Ershad, who took over in a bloodless coup in 1982 and named himself president the next year, declared that he would go ahead with plans for the polls.

National Polls have been postponed thrice in the past three years in the face of boycott threats from the opposition, who demand the withdrawal of martial law before any election.

Opposition Demonstrates Against Elections

HK201446 Hong Kong AFP in English
1424 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 20 (AFP) — Thousands of opposition supporters shouting anti-government slogans demonstrated here Thursday as the ruling military regime went ahead with preparations for parliamentary elections slated for next month.

The country's two major opposition alliances, representing 15 and seven parties, organised the demonstration in the build-up to a general strike on Saturday called to protest the planned April 26 polls.

Witnesses said the opposition groups mobilised as many as 30,000 demonstrators, while organisers put the crowd at more than 50,000.

Supporters of the two alliances paraded in a joint procession through the main streets of the capital urging people to boycott next month's polls and shouting anti-government slogans.

The mainstream opposition of the two alliances along with the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami Party have called for a nation-wide dawn-to-dusk strike on Saturday, which was to have been the deadline for filing election nominations.

However, the Election Commission amended the election schedule Thursday to allow candidates to file nomination papers until March 25.

Meanwhile, President Hussain Mohammad Ershad reiterated Thursday that parliamentary elections would be held on schedule, "fulfilling my pledge to the nation for establishing democracy."

He told a public meeting in the northern town of Kishoregnj that he would proceed with electionplans, the BSS NEWS AGENCY reported.

National polls have been postponed three times in the past three years in the face of boycott threats from the opposition, which demands that martial law be withdrawn and power be handed over to a caretaker government to ensure fair elections.

Lieutenant General Ershad Wednesday met with senior army officers to discuss "the overall political situation obtaining in the country" against the backdrop of the opposition to the planned election, press reports said.

A top aide at the presidential palace said the president Thursday held a meeting with senior civil servants to discuss the situation and also called an emergency meeting of the cabinet.

Opposition Alliance Groups Hold Joint Meeting

BK201205 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Mar 86 p 1,8

[Excerpt] Both the 15-party alliance and seven-party alliance in their first ever joint meeting on Monday decided to continue the movement for realisation of the five point demand jointly and appealed to the countrymen to make the programme already announced from March 20 to 22 a success.

The two alliances in a joint statement said that the government has ignored the demands for creating a free and congenial atmosphere holding election on the basis of 5 [as published] five-point demand. On the other hand it has created a situation so that the Oppmlition parties cannot participate in the election. The statement said that it is the duty of all not to participate in the election to legalise the military government.

The joint statement however, hoped that there is still time and good sense will prevail on the Government. It called upon the people to resist unitedly any attempt by the Government to suppress the popular movement. The joint meeting of the two alliances held at the Jbikatla residence of NAP [National Awami Party] leader Mr Suranjit Sen Gupta was presided over by Pir Habibur Rahman.

The meeting which was expected for the last few days brought an end to the separate identical programmes of the movement done by the alliances for the last three years and seven months. First such identical programme of the alliances was the observance of hartal [strike] on November 1 1983. It may be recalled that the 15-party alliance was formed on January 17 in 1983 and the seven-partly alliance came into being in the middle of the same year. A five-point programme was launched on September 6 of 1983 Relaxing restriction on political activities by the Government on March 24 1982, indoor politics was allowed from September 1 in 1983.

Leaders of the alliances Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina did not attend the joint meeting of the alliances on Monday. However, they are likely to join the next meeting of the alliances on March 22. The venue of the meeting will be decided later on. [passage omitted containting names of people who attended the meeting]

Hasina Urges Ershad To Learn Lesson from Marcos

BK151522 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 11 Mar 86 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Sheikh Hasina, president of the Bangladesh Awami League, said: "We do not want to acquire power through conspiracy, we want to acquire it by launching a movement in support of the election and then actually holding it. President General Ershad does not want the political parties to take part in the elections, and so he is not creating conditions conducive for holding elections." She was delivering a speech yesterday as the chief guest at the national conference of the Bangladesh Chhatra [Students] League, Mannan group, in the Dhaka University grounds situated between the administrative building and the art faculty. She said that it requires the joint efforts of people from all walks of life to create a process of transferring power to the people through elections.

Directing her address to President General Ershad she said: "Come and contest politics with politics; the days of ruling with the strenth of arms are over. By expelling the gunmen from the university campus the patriotic students have proved that it is not possible to hold power anymore through strength of arms."

She said that the drama of capturing power with the strength of arms continued from 1975 and since then many students, youths, and workers have given their lives and blood for the cause of upholding democracy. They will continue their struggle and go on sacrificing until their rights are successfully established.

She said: "We want the end of military rule because no one can hope for political stability with its continuation, and without political stability there cannot be economic stability".

Sheikh Hasina said: Even after so many years of independence, its fruits have not reached the common people. The four basic principles of the nation enunciated by Bangabandhu [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman] have been abandoned. The denationalization is a deviation from the principles of independence. The soldiers of Bangabandhu will not allow these things to happen, and they will regain the fruits of independence at all cost.

She said that President Ershad has called the leader of opposition "Corazon." In fact, in this way he has indirectly admitted that he is the Marcos of Bangladesh. She asked President General Ershad to learn a lesson from history, otherwise his fate will be similar to that of Marcos.

Soviet Official Notes Decline in Trade Since 1981

BK170659 Dhaka BSS in English 0630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 17 (BSS) — The volume of trade turnover between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union during the last 14 years was on an average 50-60 million dollars.

This was stated by Mr A.M. Vardanian, head of the Soviet trade mission, at a news conference here yesterday.

He said the volume of turnover in 1972 was only 23 million dollars but it increased to 80 million dollars in 1981.

He, however, said that after 1981 there had been a decline in the trade.

Rajiv Gandhi Receives Sri Lankan High Commissioner

BK201111 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] High Commissioner Bernard Tilakaratna called on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday and brought the increasing incidents of violence in the north and east and the resultant law and order problems to his notice. The Foreign Ministry said in Colombo that Mr Tilakaratna, who pointed out that there was a serious deterrent to any political solution to the ethnic problem, assured Mr Gandhi that Colombo was anxious to see an end to the violence costing civilian lives and destruction of property.

A news release said that Mr Tilakaratna had drawn the attention of the steps recently taken by the government to help create the necessary climate for a political solution.

Rao Reelected General Secretary of CPI

BK181300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Mr C. Rajeshwar Rao has been unanimously reelected as the general secretary of the Communist Party of India. This announcement was made at the 13th congress of the party in Patna today.

Reportage on Violence, Police Response in Punjab

Police Crack Down on Militants

HK201438 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, March 20 (AFP) — The authorities in the troubled northern Indian state of Punjab on Thursday began cracking down on Sikh militants to prevent them marching on the state legislature, police sources here said.

The sources said about 50 people had been arrested on the eve of a protest march called by the Sikh militants' United Akali Dal Party.

The United Akali Dal's acting secretary, Moham Singh Bagi, said the police had arrested a large number of his party's supporters in a pre-dawn swoop and that reports of more arrests were "pouring in."

The party chairman, Baba Joginder Singh, plans to head a march to the Punjab Legislative Assembly building in the state capital, Chandigarh, on Friday to press for the release of detained Sikhs.

Sikh militants want their Punjab homeland to become an independent Sikh state.

Meanwhile, the police said a group of unidentified men armed with sharp-edged weapons had halted a bus on the Batala-Amritsar highway and had attacked and wounded an unknown number of passengers. The wounded were taken to hospital.

Batala was the scene of recent clashes between the state's Sikh and Hindu religious communities, and the situation there remains tense.

Amritsar District Police Chief S.S. Virk told reporters that hundred of members of the pro-militant All-India Sikh Students' Federation had blocked the shipment of food and other goods to half a dozen towns in Punjab.

Militants also tried to force shopkeepers to close their establishments as part of a day of protest against the conduct of paramilitary forces called in to quell trouble in Batala.

Security Tightened

BK210210 Dehli Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] The Chandigarh administration has made adequate security arrangements in view of today's call for gherao [blockade] of the Punjab Legislative Assembly by the Akali Dal led by Mr Joginder Singh. Prohibitory orders, including the ban on assembly of 5 or more persons, are already in force in areas around the Secretariat and the assembly. The Punjab police have also made some preventive arrests in this connection.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound towns of Jullundur, Nakodar, Batala, and Muktsar continues to be under control. While the curfew in Jullundur and Nakodar has been extended till 1100 today, in Muktsar the relaxation of 2 hours is being from 1300 today. Indefinite curfew continues to be imposed in Batala.

Militant Sikhs Stage Protest

HK210614 Hong Kong AFP in English 0539 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Mar 21 (AFP) — Three thousand Sikh militants entered the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh Friday to stage a protest demonstration there, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

PTI said militant leader Joginder Singh, who heads the United Akali Dal Party, had defied prohibitory orders and entered Chandigarh early Friday with 3,000 young supporters. The militants plan to block the state assembly to force the moderate-led government there to release Sikh prisoners, PTI said.

Police Thursday had arrested 200 militant Sikhs across the northern state in a bid to frustrate the protest.

Militants Blockade State Assembly

HK210728 Hong Kong AFP in English 0627 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, Mar 21 (AFP) — Some 10,000 Sikh militants blockaded the Punjab state assembly in Chandigarh Friday, forcing the house to adjourn as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the mob, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA said.

The Sikhs were being led by Baba Joginder Singh, who heads the militant faction of the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal.

The Sikhs, armed with swords, and shouting slogans calling for a Sikh homeland, managed to get near the state assembly building, breaking four police barricades, UNI said quoting police sources.

Officials in Chandigarh were not available for comment by telephone from here.

The blockade was aimed at forcing the moderate-led government to free Sikh prisoners, according to an earlier announcement.

2 Killed in Police Firing

BK210849 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpts] In Chandigarh, two persons are feared killed and about six injured today when police opened fire to control unruly agitators of the Akali Dal led by Mr Joginder Singh who wanted to gherao [blockade] the Punjab legislative assembly. According to an official spokesman, the agitators broke police cordons and when the use of teargas shells and cane charge failed to control the mob, the police had to open fire. He said while most of the agitators were chased away, about 500 of them managed to reach the Legislative Assembly compound where they sat in dharna [sit in].

The spokesman said over 12 men of the police and paramilitary forces were also injured in the brickbatting indulged in by the agitators.

The state assembly, which was in session, was adjourned by the speaker for some time.

AFP: Further on Violence

HK210848 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 21 Mar 86

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, March 21 (AFP) — PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said three people died in the firing. A PTI reporter saw two falling on the ground after being hit by police bullets. "Their bodies were lifted by the police and put into a waiting van", PTI said.

PTI said an unknown number of people were injured. Five of them were hospitalised with serious wounds.

Chandigarh officials were not available for comment by telephone from here, but city residents reached by telephone said there was "huge tension" there.

"The entire road leading to the state assembly was littered with brickbats, shoes, and smashed window panes of buses... blood was also splattered all over the area", PTI said.

Earlier the group led by Baba Joginder Singh, who heads the militant faction of the Sikh political party the Akali Dal, broke four police barricades and managed to reach the state assembly building.

The assembly was adjourned and all entry gates sealed, UNI said. Paramilitary troops stationed inside the assembly boundary wall were out on alert as the Sikhs approached the building.

The police firing triggered a Sikh retreat, but some 300 of the militants led by Baba Joginder Singh, squatted on the road just outside the assembly building, PTI said.

Observers said Friday's clash was the most serious one since the storming of Sikhism's holiest shrine — the Golden Temple — in Amritsar in June 1984 by [the] Indian Army.

Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered her troops into the shrine to dislodge Sikh militants entrenched there. Some 650 people, mostly Sikhs were killed in the operation. Since then there have been minor clashes, but observers said Friday's clash has proved that the militants were still a force to be reckoned with in Punjab.

Since earlier this week, the state, which borders with Pakistan, has seen a spurt in killings linked to a Sikh autonomy campaign, observers said. At least 12 people have died in violence in the state this week, domestic news agencies reported.

Bomb Blast Rocks House of Former Finance Minister

BK210301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] An explosion rocked the house of Mr Pranab Mukherjee, the former union finance minister, in South Delhi last evening. According to the police, no one was injured in the blast which slightly damaged the house. The home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, the lieutenant governor, [name indistinct] and several senior police officials rushed to the scene.

Delhi Domestic on Pakistan's Zia To Stay in Office

BK200315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] In Pakistan, Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq has said that he will continue to stay in office until 1990. In an interview in the Pakistan daily *JUNG*, General Zia said that he was elected for a 5-year term in a national referendum in December 1984. He also justified retaining the post of chief of army staff. He denied having any differences with the prime minster, Mr Mohmmad Khan Junejo.

Scientific Cooperation Program With CSSR Finalized

BK200329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] India and Czechoslovakia have identified more areas of cooperation in the scientific field between the two countries. A

delegation of the Czechoslovakia Academy of Sciences and the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have finalized a program to this effect for the period 1986-88. A number of new areas finalized include biochemical mechanism, radio and atmospheric physics, and scientific and biomedical instrumentation.

AFP: Police Break International Drug Syndicate

HK201206 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 20 (AFP) — Police here Thursday busted an international drug syndicate and arrested a Sikh and are investigating for connections to the separatist campaign in Punjab, police said.

One hundred police raided a farmhouse near here and seized 553 kilograms (1,216 pounds) of hashish after a tip that an India-based narcotics syndicate with links in Europe was operating from there, Southern District Police Chief Maxewell Perreira said.

He identified the Sikh as Pratap Singh, 41, who ran a restaurant that was closed by police here two years ago for unexplained reasons. He later went to Nepal, and interrogation Thursday showed the hashish was coming from Nepal, Mr Perreira told reporters.

Mr Singh admitted he was trading in narcotics, Mr Perreira said.

Indian police have notified Interpol with the addresses of people in Amsterdam and other European cities where the syndicate had links, he said, not identifying the other cities.

He said this was the largest drug seizure in northern India this year, and police were investigating whether Mr Singh's activities were related to the separatist movement in Punjab state.

Top police sources said police believe that the militants had lately started collecting funds through drug smuggling. "It was just a hunch.... But several factors now lead us to believe that the hunch is coming true," one source said.

President Ziaul Haq Grants UK Television Interview
LD201640 London ITV Television Network in English
1330 GMT 16 March 86

[Interview with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq on "Face the Press" program by moderator Gillian Reynolds of the *DAILY TELEGRAPH*, John Elliot of the *FINANCIAL TIMES*, and Eric Silver of *THE GUARDIAN* in the Rawalpindi studios of the Pakistani television corporation — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reynolds] President Zia, with the lifting or martial law, how fully democratic is Pakistan today?

[Ziaul Haq] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Yes, Miss Reynolds, Pakistan is as democratic today as any developing democratic country. I do not say that democracy and development go hand in hand, but there are problems in developing countries and Pakistan has had, as you will likely introduce, three interruptions in the democratic process. But I think we are back on the rail, and I find that the new government is progressing well and hence (?time shall lie) in not too far a distance, Pakistan will be amongst the top countries who profess to be democratic.

[Elliot] You have moved from being the military dictator of Pakistan to being president of the country; but you are not a directly-elected president because you interpreted a referendum on Islamization, about a year ago after it had taken place, as a vote for you to stay in power for another 5 years. So, you're not an elected president as such. Do you agree?

[Ziaul Haq] No. I think I am as democratically elected as any democratic president could be. In our Constitution, our president is supposed to be indirectly elected, and I think the next president will be. But, in order to start the process of democratization, we have to start in some form and the philosophy that evolved was that someone should be the focal point, and around him should evolve the democratic process; and through him should be, or he should be the center of stability. I happen to be that one. And therefore I first had to establish my own credentials, and that credential was worked out in the manner of a referendum indirectly to post confidence in me, to start the process, and that's how I am the president.

[Elliot] So the vote was for Islamization, rather than for you personally?

[Ziaul Haq] No. There are two questions: That if you say yes, yes, yes, it would mean that you are giving me the vote of confidence to continue for next 5 years as president of Pakistan, as elected president of Pakistan. Yes.

[Silver] Another essential element of democratic government is the free play of political parties. Your present parliament, and through it your present government, were elected in nonparty elections just about 1 year ago. Since then, since the lifting of martial law, we've had the old opposition political parties back in business. They're organizing, they're holding meetings; but they complain that they don't have a chance to go to the electorate, that you are saying they must wait until 1990, which is still 4 years away. Is that a legitimate demand of the political parties?

[Ziaul Haq] If, pardon my language if I use just some words to explain my point of view, if you literally shove something into somebody's throat, you can say yes. But if the people choose to have a form, or a manner, in a political style, then you can't blame it. We introduced a system of nonpartisan, nonparty elections, and then leaving it to the elected representative to choose the future of the country. This is the premise on which we started and I -- not only me but all of us — we requested the politicians that for a change, give up your rigid stance, participate in this process. The aim is to bring the elected representatives; the aim is not to bring the political parties, because all political parties or all the countries that maybe... uh ...trying to introduce democratic processes may not be up to a particular level of competence where the political parties are concerned. And same was with us. And therefore...

[Reynolds, interrupting] But even if people stand as individuals, there are bound to be inevitable party groupings, informal groupings should we say, not party, to the left or to the right. Will it be possible to form such groupings of individuals?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes. I was just coming onto this. Before I said, so you must understand which we went through, we wanted to hold elections on a nonparty basis. The political parties, whom at that time, and even now I believe, did not have their roots in the people — did not, were not so much democratized themselves, and the same situation exists even today.

They demanded a boycott to our elections. But the result was, as I'm sure you must have noticed — I think Mr Elliott was here at the time of elections, I'm not sure whether you were or not — 63 percent of the electorate turned out for the national assembly elections. Sixty-seven percent of the electorate turned out for provincial elections. This shows how credible the call of the political parties was.

[Elliot] But now you're going to let political parties gradually come back, which is different from what you were saying 2 or 3 years ago; you were making speeches saying you did not believe that an Islamic state which Pakistan was — which you were building up Pakistan to be. You did not believe that in an Islamic state there was room for political parties.

[Ziaul Haq] Yes.

[Elliot] You even said to me in November that you hoped political parties would not come back into any sort of operation until very near the next election due in 1990. On those two issues you have moved quite a long way.

[Ziaul Haq] Yes, yes you're right. Before I come to this, just to quickly to answer to the question of Miss Reynolds, you said about the groupings: Having elected the representatives on a nonparty system, the new parliament chose themselves to behave in two groups. The parliamentary group of the prime minister, and the independent parliamentary group. They divided themselves in two, the majority being with the prime minister as to official parliamentary group, OPG, and those who wanted to be in opposition, they call themselves independent parliamentary group. This is how they started off. And then the parliament decided, because I'm not the know-all. I started the ball. How it

is to be played in future depends on how the elected representative feel. I started a nonparty system, but then I found the elected representative wanted to group themselves in parties, and that's how the parliament has now passed a political parties act laying down the rules of the game for the political parties.

[Silver] But now that those parties are back, parties outside parliament but parties which claim genuinely to be democratic parties. Do you exclude the possibility of giving them an opportunity to go back to the people, to present themselves for election before 1990?

[Ziaul Haq] No, we have not, we have not banned anything at all, we have not stopped anybody. The parliament have devised a political parties act; in other words, this is the rules of the game for the political parties to operate...

[Reynolds interrupting] Can, can I ask you then, perhaps she's watching at this moment, from her flat at the Barbican, if Miss Benazir Bhutto comes back in 2 or 3 weeks how free is she to operate as a party leder in Pakistan?

[Ziaul Haq] As free as any other political party in Pakistan or party leader in Pakistan, there are no restrictions on any political leader whatsoever.

[Reynolds] Can you quarantee her safety?

[Ziaul Haq] I guarantee it; It is my duty. Not only mine, but the Government of Pakistan's duty not only to safeguard the life of Benazir Bhutto but everyone, from the lowest to the highest.

[Silver] When she cam back last August, she was given similar guarantees. She came back for her brother's funeral and she finished up under house arrest once again. I know times have changed, you don't have martial law now. But can you guarantee that she won't once again finish up under house arrest?

[Ziaul Haq] I'm nobody. There are laws of the land. All those who obey the laws can be as free as that.

[Elliot] But if she comes back and has big meetings, with tens of thousands of people, and if she attacks you personally, which she probably will do and challenge you to face her in an election, can you and your government and the army officers around you stand that sort of pressure very long?

[Ziaul Haq] Mr Elliot, we are a democratic country. In a democracy people don't...[changes thought] people learn to tolerate. And I have lots of patience.

[Elliot] But you told me in November that you were going to retire as chief of Army Staff. The Army still has a lot of influence, a lot of power in this country. And you told me in November that you were going to retire as chief of Army Staff within a few days of martial law ending. Martial law has now been over for more than 2 months. You changed your mind on the chief of Army Staff and you stayed. You changed your mind earlier, as I said, on Islamization policies and the review of that on political parties. Why did you change your mind twice on those two key issues: parties in Islam and you as chief of Army Staff?

[Ziaul Haq] It's what good for the country, what the people, what the elected representatives think of themselves. I am not the know-all, and there is never a last work in politics.

[Elliot] But you said you would retire honorably as chief of Army Staff and you said it would be illogical for you to stay as supreme commander of the Armed Forces and be president in an elected government. Why are you still chief of Army Staff?

[Ziaul Haq] I have returned temporarily to chief Army Staff position in consultation with the prime minister for a very particular reason: If you look at our history, you have three interruptions in martial law — all three from the Armed Forces. And therefore, while we are in the process of stabilizing the political government I, for one, would make it absolutely sure that there is no chance of any future interruption. This will be my [words indistinct]. I am only acting temporarily, for the time being, for a very short while. You may ask me again as to how I can be sure that I will not change my mind.

[Elliot] Have you any fear that some other Army officer in this country might stage a coup?

[Ziaul Haq] No. Not at all...

[Elliot, interrupting] Then why do you need to stay?

[Ziaul Haq] We have very fine, loyal, obediant, professional commanders — chiefs of services. But yet, I have to make 100 percent sure that I act not as a sword over their heads, but as a bridge between the newly-elected democratic government...

[Elliot, interrupting] But if you had given it up, there would have been more likelihood of a coup against you?

[Ziaul Haq] No. That's what you think. I think in a different matter.

[Reynolds] From the domestic scene to Pakistan's relationship with other countries: Since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, you have had considerable backing from the United States. But I have heard criticism that Pakistan is too reliant on the United States.

[Ziaul Haq] No, that is incorrect. There is biased opinion. Pakistan has got very good relationship with the United States of America and we are very proud of this relationship. And the United States of America has helped us in many ways. But that does not mean either that Pakistan should be taken for granted or that Pakistan is totally dependent on the United States of America in any form.

[Reynolds] You are just now negotiating a new aid package with America. How much are you actually looking for?

[Ziaul Haq] We are not looking for any particular sum of money. But the newly-elected government, rightly, has some high expectations. Expectations in the sense that Pakistan is going through a very critical stage. Pakistan wants to strengthen its economy, the newly-elected democratic government wants to impress the people, and also, we want to have a strong and stable Army. The

prices have escalated, the requirements are enhanced. And therefore, in terms of money, Pakistan is not looking for a particular sum, but Pakistan is looking for a very reliable and credible offer for the next 6 years to come in which we can strengthen our economy, provide whatever maximum Pakistan could do for its defense forces. It is in these two respects the political government now is negotiating, is looking for something better, and more appropriate, more effective than what the military regime contracted with the United States of America. It's as simple as that.

[Elliot] You and other ministers, I think, talked about needing 50 percent more on top of the $3.2 billion of defense and economic aid that you had in the last package. Would you go along with that figure as a sort of sum you would need?

[Ziaul Haq] I don't think we could lay down Pakistan's requirements are only this much. We are negotiating at the present moment. The next programs are in negotiations. And Pakistan has put up its cards, given its requirements, and actually the government has (?experienced some of its compulsions,) but we will come up, mutually, with a beneficial program.

[Silver] One issue that has put some strain on your relations with the United States in the last couple of years has been your nuclear research program. The Americans, like the Indians and a lot of other people, suspect that you are trying to develop a Pakistani nuclear weapon. First of all, what is the truth about this? Are you engaged in military research, and if you are not, then can you please anser the question that was put by Mr Rajiv Gandhi last winter: What are you making the enriched uranium for if not for military purposes.

[Ziaul Haq] Pakistan, as I said before, is committed for the nuclear program only for peaceful purposes. We have neither the intentions nor the resources nor the desire to utilize nuclear energy for nonpeaceful purposes or for military purposes. I have said so a number of times; the government has gone on record of indicating. We have an enrichment program, an enrichment of uranium — an enrichment of uranium of a low grade. Not a high-grade weapon enrichment program. Its a modest, experimental program in order to have Pakistan acquire the capabilities of a peaceful user. If and when Pakistan is able to get a power reactor, so that we are self-sufficient, self-contained — and that is all there is to it.

[Silver] I have seen an American study, a Senate study, which says that uranium could very quickly be upgraded to weapons-grade to give you a nuclear military option. Isn't that really what Pakistan is up to?

[Ziaul Haq] No. This is, in the first case, technically... [changes thought] I'm not sure, because I'm not a technician. But our aim and purposes are totally different, and we are not looking for. [sentence as heard] And secondly, let me tell you one thing, very simple: that enriched uranium, assuming for a second rich uranium of a high-grade, is not what can give you a bomb, because you can make a bomb or you can think of a bomb by reading books these days. The high school students in the United States of America and Britain probably know everything of what a bomb should have or not have. There are a large number of backup support for a nuclear military program which Pakistan has neither the desire nor the resources, and we are not entering any military program.

[Reynolds] I saw a headline in one of the papers yesterday that said that your relationship with India, which just a few months ago seemed to be blossoming, was now back to square one. How do you see your future relationship with India?

[Ziaul Haq] Very bright, because we are on a peace offensive, And I have been saying so. I must say that we accelerated the process and on the 17th of December when I was in New Delhi, and I met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, we had very good results of that meeting. Since then, there have been some cooling off from the Indian side. But there is no reverse as such, so therefore I'm still hopeful that India, because of her own compulsions, if they have any, might have slightly, if I can use the word, decelerated the program...

[Elliot, interrupting] I think in India they probably say the same thing about you. One of the curious things about traveling between the two countries is that they do tend to say the same things about each other. A number of things have emerged as problems, or reemerged as problems. You have even let Kashmir come out as a major issue, where I got the distinct impression, from both your officials and from the officials on the India side, that Kashmir, although the biggest and longest-running difference between you, would be left on one side until you have solved the other problems. What's gone wrong?

[Ziaul Haq] Nothing.

[Elliott] But you have been making statements about Kashmir, about how it must be solved, how it must be sorted out. Your representative in Kashmir has made similar comments.

[Ziaul Haq] Politicians make a lot of statements. But that does not quite get the policy of the government. The government policy should be seen in what Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said in the parliament on 28 December 1985. He made a categorical foreign policy statement. And that shows that Pakistan wishes, and will continue to have, good relationship with India and Kashmir — we will resolve peacefully, under the United Nations resolutions and in the spirit of similar agreements. This is the Pakistan stand.

[Elliot] But the Indians complain, particularly bitterly at the moment, that Pakistan is interferring in their problems in Punjab. They allege that Pakistani intelligence officers are still training and equipping Sikhs extremists and helping them to infiltrate across the border and to revive terrorism there. What is the truth about that?

[Ziaul Haq] The truth is Pakistan has always believed in policies of principle, based on principles. We do not allow anybody to interfere in our internal affairs, then how do you expect Pakistan to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The problem is of the Sikhs — is a problem between India and the Sikh community. Pakistan is not a party to it. We have no intentions, and we have done nothing to interfere in the internal affairs of India and we respect the Indian Government's position on the subject.

[Reynolds] Can I bring you to a problem which involves the whole world, and that's the problem of drugs. On the British news last week, the burning of the poppy fields made tremendous headlines. But here, in Pakistan, I read headlines about the misery caused to the farmers of those regions. How can you eradicate the growing of poppies?

[Ziaul Haq] Pakistan in the last 7, 9 years, reduced poppy production from 800 tons to 40 tons. At the present moment, Pakistan's own production is only 40 tons, approximately, of poppies. You must have seen yesterday's papers, and today's papers — we had an incident in one of the areas of the Northwest Frontier province where the poppy field was leveled by the government forces and there was an exchange of fire in which even a member of the National Assembly, which is parliament, was arrested because he was participating in this. You have seen, if you have seen the mood of the house, it is in favor of the poppy growers. But if you see the government's stand, it is in favor of taking all actions of removing the poppy growing altogether. Pakistan stands committed, the Government of Pakistan stands committed to eradicating total production of poppy growing in Pakistan. And we are also taking adequate measures, to the best of our ability, of not allowing the traffickers to take Pakistan as a conduit. This is what our problem is.

[Elliot] It is the trafficking problem which continues . I have been coming to this country for 2 or 3 years and every time I have come I have always heard that people in your regime, Army officers, local commanders, and people in the provincial government have been involved in the trafficking, especially in the key areas where it comes down from the north. What do you say to those allegations?

[Ziaul Haq] No sir, they are totally wrong. These are false accusations. The government of Pakistan and all its resources have been diverted totally to check the trafficking of drugs to Pakistan. And last year, Pakistan has seized something like 4,000 kilograms of heroin and other such drugs. Thsi record is the highest of any country, including Great Britain.

[Elliot] During that time, you finished up with too many addicts in the country. It has now become a problem for you as well as for America and Britain and the other countries that receive the drugs. That must have changed your perceptions; now you have got, I beleive, too many addicts, young children, your people in Karachi and other cities.

[Ziaul Haq] We have a large number: According to our count, we have over 300,000 addicts. But we are not doing it for the sake of stopping our own [words indistinct]. We do it as a moral duty, not only for Pakistan but for everybody else.

[Reynolds] Will this be on the agenda when you meet Sir Geoffrey Howe when he visits Pakistan in 2 or 3 weeks.

[Ziaul Haq] We are in touch with the British Government all along. But I must tell you this: I must convey it through you our gratitude to the government of Prime Minister Thatcher, that we are in very close coordination and that we are very grateful for the assistance we have received from your government in order to be effective in controlling the trafficking in Pakistan.

[Reynolds] You've got a considerable refugee population here from the war in Afghanistan. Do you think that war is in danger of becoming forgotten?

[Ziaul Haq] This is what I pray; that I hope it doesn't become a forgotten war. And I keep on telling every journalist whom I meet, including Mr Elliot, whom I mentioned last time, that it is a war that requires everybody's sympathies because a superpower has subjugated a tiny little power like Afghanistan. And as a result of this we have in Pakistan 3 million refugees. And as long as, in my opinion, this war remains on the front pages of all the newspapers in the world, there will never be enough moral pressure on the Soviet Union to come to a peaceful agreement, to a solution.

[Reynolds] But doesn't it suit America quite well to have Russia tied up in Afghanistan?

[Ziaul Haq] No. No. These are false accusations and allegatons, imaginations that the United States of America wishes to make of Afghanistan a — what's the word, a Vietnam of the Soviet Union. This is not so.

[Elliot] But you've benefitted a lot as well. And Pakistan, your regime, has been helped by America because of the occupations of Afghanistan.

[Ziaul Haq] If you call this as a beneficiary, if you call the situation of Afghanistan to be beneficial to Pakistan, then I would rather much like to be nonbeneficiary rather than to be beneficiary. We are nct amongst those. Yes, Afghanistan has helped Pakistan to acquire assistance from the United States of America, but not because of Afghanistan, but on moral grounds.

[Elliot] But do you think if there is a settlement of the Afghanistan question that there would still be economic aid coming from America?

[Ziaul Haq] If the United States of America and Pakistan relations are good, which I hope they will be, and I hope they will continue to be, and if Pakistan's needs have to be fulfilled by the United States of America, I'm sure that country will do so irrespective of what the Afghanistan situation may be.

[Elliot] Will you ask for a guarantee of that when you come to your agreement on a new aid package?

[Ziaul Haq] No. There are no guarantees for the packages. It is a mutual agreement between two independent, autonomous countries.

[Silver] President Ziaul, on another long-running conflict in which you have some interest, I noticed in an interview this week that you said that the Palestinians should endorse United Nations Resolution 242; in other words, accept the existence of the State of Israel and they should settle for what they can get on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and then they should try to live in peace with Israel. Is that the beginning of some new initiative, some new, perhaps higher profile position that you intend to take on that Middle East conflict?

[Ziaul Haq] No, no. There's no new initiative on the part of Pakistan. I was only trying to explain the realities of life and I was also trying to impress Pakistan's point of view on the Palestinian question. Much before Pakistan came into being, the leaders of Pakistan have always supported the Palestinian cause, and Pakistan will continue to support the cause of the Palestinians. But how to resolve this problem? Unless there is an understanding between both, between the United States of America, Israel and the Arab world, and unless you see the realities of life, it will be very difficult to resolve this problem.

[Reynolds] In my final question, President Ziaul, may I bring you back to almost where we began, and ask you, what is to happen to the political prisoners who were held at the end of martial law? When will they be freed?

[Ziaul Haq] There are no, madame, you may or may not believe, there are no political prisoners in Pakistan today.

[Silver] I must give you the names of three people who have been held for some years now, one of them for as long as 6 or 7 years, who have not been charged and have not been tried. I could give you their names if you like, but those people are still in jail as far as I know.

[Ziaul Haq] Well, I'm sure that if I get to know them I will certainly pass them on to the prime minister to see. But there are, then, the present laws of Pakistan, do not afford to have prisoners, or anybody, without being charged.

[Reynolds] On that note, thank you for facing the press today, President Ziaul.
[Ziaul Haq] Thanks so much.

Protest Lodged Over Afghan Bombing in Khurram

BK201552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1510 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has strongly protested the unprovoked bombing and rocketing of various Pakistan areas in the Khurram Agency. Three Afghan aircraft fired 10 rockets at the Qarshia post 2 miles south of Kharlachi last Sunday [16 March] injuring four personnel of the security forces. Later, these aircraft fired rockets at (Matasanghar) refugee camp 200 meters south of Qarshia killing 2 refugees and injuring 3 others. On Tuesday last four Afghan aircraft at 17:35 bombed the Qarshia post and fired rockets killing four militiamen of the Khurram Agency and injuring 15 others. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Further on Visit of Polish Deputy Foreign Minister

Calls on Yaqub Khan

BK180710 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The visiting deputy foreign minister of Poland, Mr Jan Majenski, called on the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in Islamabad this afternoon. The foreign minister spoke of the resolve to further strengthen relations between the two countries and [words indistinct] on issues of mutual interest.

Departs After 'Useful' Talks

BK181026 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Poland, Mr Jan Majenski, left Islamabad today at the conclusion of his visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport, the deputy foreign minister of Poland said he had held very useful discussions with Pakistani officials for further expanding bilateral cultural and economic cooperation. He said Pakistan and Poland had always been very good trading partners and maintained good ties in economic and cultural fields. Mr Jan Majenski said it has been decided to hold meetings once in a year at the level of deputy foreign ministers to review bilateral relations.

Opposition Official Warns of U.S. Naval Presence

GF201315 Lahore JANG in Urdu 16 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by *JANG* correspondent]

[Text] Gujranwala — Addressing an MRD meeting held at Sheranwala Bagh, Gujranwala, the chairman of the National Liberation Front, Mr Me'raj Muhammad Khan, said: Pakistan is a sign of our prestige and pride. Pakistan has never before faced the danger to its territorial integrity which it is facing today. A U.S. naval unit has anchored off Pakistani waters. The machinations of the colonial powers began the Iran-Iraq war. Muslim bretheren have been forced to war against each other and now they are hatching plots against Pakistan. If the United States launches an attack on Iran from Pakistani seas, then Pakistan will be made a burial ground for the colonialists. Plans are being made against Pakistan. It is said that the U.S. naval unit is in Pakistani waters with the willingness of the Government of Pakistan. Before it launches an attack on Iran, it will be blown up by bombs. The government's power rests on four pillars: the United States, GHQ [General headquarters], landowners, and opportunists. They should be pulled out by their roots. Mr Me'raj Muhammad Khan also said that President Ziaul Haq should give up power by 5 July.

NAWA-E WAQT Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Interview

GF181555 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 17 Mar 86 p 3

["Review" column by Muhammad Iqbal Suhail: "American Ambassador's Misstatement"]

[Text] The press interview with U.S. Ambassador Mr Deane Hinton with Pakistani correspondents on 2 March was broadcast by Radio Israel and a part of the Arab press also published a summary of it. The interview carried out by Mr Deane Hinton was not only full of contradictions but also hinted that he considered Pakistanis to be immature and ignorant. People in Europe and the United States often talk of Afro-Asians as fools. By sitting on the high cliffs of technology and scientific progress

the United States is mistaken to think that it has full knowledge of the feelings and understandings of other nations. It should realize those cliffs are based on hollow imaginations and weak foundations. The deadly destructive biochemical environment which the Americans breathe makes them incapable of stepping down to the human level and of thinking as humans think. It would be self-deception to expect them to think in a rational way. In fact, the entire interview of his excellency the ambassador is a collection of misstatements, but two of his misstatements require special attention:

The first statement is when he said: "In relation to the Middle East, the Pakistani Muslims and Muslims all over fail to understand the American political course and that the Palestinians are not fighting in their own territory." The brightest point in American diplomacy is that nobody can compete with them in misstatements and trickery. Within 1 week the United States has used its veto three times against the Muslims in the UN Security Council. Despite this it still claims to be a democracy. The question of the Middle East is quite simple but the United States has complicated it. Even a fool can understand that to collect the Jews from all over the world, to forcibly make them reside in Palestine, to turn the Palestinians out of their own homeland, and to crush them through various tricks is not democracy in any sense of the word. The question now is: Are the Americans so stupid that they do not understand this? Israel is an artificial state; this is the highest proof of the American neocolonial system.

How and why did the Palestinians become terrorists? For more than 30 years your fascist colleagues have been crushing the Palestinian people. A French research center has estimated that 100,000 Muslim Palestinians have been slaughtered in Lebanon, 200,000 children have been orphaned, and 250,000 wounded Palestinians are living in a most tragic condition. Some 300,000 Palestinians have been killed in Lebanon during the last 10 years. There are 60,000 Palestinians suffering torture in jails. Young children and girls were violated in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Was not all this "terrorism"? Defenseless Palestinians were being slaughtered for years with American arms and under American guidance. Was all this a "picnic"? But when in Rome and Vienna a couple of men were killed and some glass panes were broken, then the worshippers of the grand democracy of the White House lost their senses. Where were these champions of human rights sleeping in those days? The United States has openly violated the human rights charter in the security council. It is the Muslims who have control of the Muslim holy places in Palestine and the right to safeguard Islamic relics. Israel has desecrated these places and condemnation of Israel was just and fair in accordance with the human rights charter. Can Mr Deane Hinton say to what democracy belongs the United States, which made fun of human rights by using its veto in the Security Council? This is the worst example of dictatorship and despotism in the annals of the history of mankind. Gunboat and the cowboy policies are the real face of the mask wearers of the Pentagon and Wall Street, and it cannot be hidden under the name of democracy. To use the veto three times in a week against the basic rights of the Muslims is not only stupidity but the worst example of cowardice.

The American, Soviet, and European Jews set up 550 settlements in occupied Palestine after throwing out the Palestinians. These rapacious animals of the current age are doing this with the backing of the United States. The "great democratic civilization" of the White House can see all this. But if it can see all this then what is meant by the misstatements. How are the independence-seeking Palestinians different from the Afghan refugees? This is strange logic. The PLO has fought for the last 3 years in its own territory. A blind person can also see this. The incidents in Rome and Vienna are the doings of hired terrorist organizations of the United States and Europe. The United States is the biggest base of terrorism. According to FBI reports the daily crime rate in the United States is higher than anywhere in the world. Is this also the work of the PLO? Racist practices in Israel and South Africa are done under U.S. protection. It is quite a different thing that the innocent people of the United States do not know which Mafia is ruling them.

The second misstatement of his excellency the ambassador is: The United States is supporting the struggle for liberation of the Afghan Mujahidin. The United States also boasts of providing aid. These are such bogus statements that if Abraham Lincoln were alive he would have torn up the charter of American democracy and thrown it into the Amazon.

Look at the graph of the aid that you had given in Korea and Vietnam and compare it with the graph of the "aid" which you are giving to the Afghan Mujahidin as reflected in your own mass media. You have given four times more aid to Soviet-controlled Ethiopia than the food and financial aid given to the Afghan Mujahidin, of which Mr Deane Hinton mentioned in his interview. Perhaps you also know that half of the aid you sent is unfit for use by the time it reaches here.

According to the Chinese News Agency the Afghan Mujahidin are fighting their battle themselves and the "1001 stories" of American aid are stories manufactured in the United States. Such stories are manufactured in Holloywood every day. The Chinese News Agency also says that most of the arms used by the Afghan Mujahidin are of Soviet make. It is obvious that the United States would not buy arms from the Soviet Union and then give it to the Afghan Mujahidin. In fact, this would be against the norms of the Geneva summit.

It would have been better for Mr Deane Hinton to understand that imperialism and colonialism cannot always go together. In regard to the question of Palestine, it is not only the feelings of the Muslims, but history, justice, fairness, and democratic principles are also on the side of the Muslims. Sooner or later the Israeli vagabonds will have to leave Palestine. Vetoes cannot alter the courses of history.

The Muslims all over the world know that it is to keep Israel alive that Muslims of Iran and Iraq are forced to go at each other's throat and on the other side Afghanistan has been occupied.

Occupation of Afghanistan actually means to upkeep the existence of Israel. Just as the Soviet imperialism offered bogus aid to the PLO and by cheating the Arabs put Palestine in the lap of Israel, similarly the United States by cheating the Afghan Mujahidin, is making propaganda of its bogus aid to them.

JASARAT on 'Deterioriating' Law and Order Situation

GF191614 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 15 Mar 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The Concern Is Justified"]

[Text] The law and order situation in Sind and in other parts of the country is deteriorating rapidly. Everybody feels unsafe and at the mercy of dacoits and criminals. Dr Muhammad Qureshi, the leader of the Jama'at-e Islami and member of the Sind provincial assembly, has expressed deep concern over this situation. He has drawn the attention of the Sind chief minister and has taken to task the Sind administration. He said that bureaucracy is creating this situation under a premeditated plan to bring about hatred toward the regime to such an extent that it would be difficult for it to save itself. They are waiting for the moment when the enemies of the country can take advantage of this unrest in the country.

The provincial government should take serious notice of this situation and should take to task the organizations and agencies which, due to their incompetence and indifference, are bringing a bad name to the popularly elected regime and are making it difficult for it to stand on its feet and to stabilize democracy.

Improved Chances for Nuclear Plant Reported

GF171202 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, March 11: In what is regarded as a very positive development Pakistan is reported to have at last succeeded in establishing its nuclear "innocence" in the international corridors of power.

While a formal no objection certificate is not expected to be issued by those who had in the past led an intense campaign against Pakistan's nuclear intentions it is, however, believed by knowledgeable circles that the country's efforts to establish a nuclear power plant now would, more likely than not, face no opposition any more.

In the changed circumstances the chances of clinching a deal with foreign suppliers for the establishment of Chashma nuclear power plant without having to sign the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) have brightened according to independent observers.

Pakistan is said to have already received a number of offers in response to its tenders for the Chashma nuclear power plant issued about three years back.

The most attractive of these offers are said to have come from Belgium and West Germany. Meanwhile France is reported to have offered a power plant as compensation for going back on the reprocessing plant agreement.

According to informed sources, these offers are now said to be under consideration of the government. The one hitch in accepting the French offer is said to be the unhappy experience with this country over the reprocessing deal.

Northwest Frontier Poppy Growers Shot Dead

GF171404 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Corpses in Poppy Fields"]

[Text] On March 8 a joint NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] Police and Frontier Constabulary force littered the fields of poppy flowers at Swabi with human corpses and then proceeded to raze the standing poppy crop to the ground. According to the official press note eight persons died, 31 were injured and 120 arrested. But the unofficial count puts the toll at: 12 killed, 37 injured and 300 arrests.

The strong-arm action by the so-called law-enforcing agencies against the innocent farmers of the NWFP has generated a wave of indignation throughout Pakistan voiced both in the National Assembly and at a huge public meeting at Swabi. It is now well known that the sad incident is a reflection of the antiheroin policy adopted by Islamabad at the behest of Washington. For long the U.S. as well as other Western powers have been pressing the Government of Pakistan to take effective measures to stop poppy cultivation.

It was, however, difficult for the Government to deprive the farmers of their traditional source of living without providing them alternative means of livelihood and compensation for their standing crops. The U.S. therefore, provided Rs. 30 crore to aid a project for the purpose. While the project remains unimplemented, the Government hastened to stop poppy cultivation by force, perhaps, to appease the donors aid pachage to Pakistan is under discussion. It was no wonder, therefore, that the MNA [Member National Assembly] and MPAS [Member Provincial Assemblies] of the area openly supported the farmers' demand for compensation.

While no sane person would support the manufacture and smuggling of heroin, the Government's methods are reminiscent of British days. A regime claiming to be democratic can scarely justify the use of force without first exhausting peaceful means. The Swabi unrest has the potential of spreading throughout the NWFP unless the Government takes prompt measures to compensate for its blunder.

NEPAL

Prime Minister Resigns, New Government Formed

Bahadur Resigns

HK210530 Hong Kong AFP in English 0435 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP) — Nepal's King Birendra has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand in the run-up to general elections May 12 and ordered the formation of an interim government, a palace statement said Friday.

The palace press note said the king had ordered Nagendra Prasad Rijal, 59, who served as prime minister in early 1975 and has held several posts under the partyless Panchayat system, to constitute an interim government.

The official announcement of the new government's formation is expected to be made at 0730 GMT. But sources close to Mr Rijal indicated the new governemnt was expected to be composed of a ten-member Council of Ministers.

Mr Chand submitted his resignation to King Birendra Thursday in the run-up to general elections scheduled for May 12, the palace said Thursday, adding that the king had asked Mr Chand to stay on until "new arrangements are made."

The Nepalese opposition, including the outlawed Nepalese congress, had demanded the resignation of Mr Chand and his cabinet to ensure free and fair polls to elect 112 members of the national Panchayat (parliament).

New Government Members Named

HK211326 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP) — The royal palace here announced on Friday that the following had been sworn in as members of the new Nepalese Government:

Prime Minister and minister of defence and royal palace affairs: Nagendra Prasad Rijal;

Minister of public health, law and justice: Rudra Prasad Giri;

Minister of commerce, industry, local supply, labour and social welfare: Beda Nanda Jha;

Minister of public works, transport and tourism: Krishna Raj Aryal;

Minister of water resources and agriculture: D. P. Adhikari;

Minister of foreign affairs, education, and culture: Ranadhir Subba;

Minister of state for home affairs, panchayat, local development, and general administration: Lila Rajh Bista;

Minister of state for forests, agriculture, land reform, and soil conservation: Narendra Nath Banstola;

Minister of state for communications: Achyut Raj Regmi;

Minister of state for finance: Bharat Bahadur Pradhan.

New Government Sworn in

HK211318 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP) — Nepal's King Birendra on Friday swore in a new government, led by Nagendra Prasad Rijal, to rule the country until after parliamentary elections in May.

A written statement from the palace said the king had administered the oath of office to the 10-member government at a simple ceremony at the palace.

The new government replaced the 32-month administration of Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who resigned on Thursday.

The Nepalese opposition had demanded the resignation of Mr Chand and his government to ensure free and fair polling in a general election on May 12.

Voters are to elect 112 members of the National Panchayat (Parliament). The king appoints the other 28 members.

The leader of the banned Nepali Congress Party, Ganesh Man Singh, described the new government as "meaningless" and reiterated his party's decision to boycott the elections.

The Nepali Congress wants the abolition of the Panchayat system, under which political parties are not allowed, the constitution of an impartial election commission, the formation of an interim government comprising representatives of all banned parties, and the release of all political prisoners.

Meanwhile, the leftist All Nepal Free Nationalist Students' Union held demonstrations here calling for the political opposition to unite to fight the Panchayat system, a union source said.

Mr Rijal, a 59-year-old orthodox high-caste Hindu from a landowning family, previously served as prime minsiter in early 1975 and has held several other government posts in the past.

Announces 'Productive Oriented' Plan

HK210918 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP) — King Birendra Friday named Magendra Prasad Rijal to head an Interim government in the run-up to general elections May 12, following the resignation of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, a palace statement said.

The palace press note said the king had accepted the resignation submitted Thursday by Mr. Chand and had ordered Mr. Rijal, 59, who served as prime minister in early 1975 and has held several posts under the partyless Panchayat system, to form an interim government.

The Nepalese opposition, including the outlawed nepalese Congress, had demanded the resignation of Mr. Chand and his cabinet to ensure free and fair polls to elect 112 members of the National Panchayat (Parliament).

Mr. Rijal told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that in addition to conducting the elections in a "free and fair" manner, his interim government would seek to minimise the impact of a recent currency devaluation and to adopt a long-term policy aimed at providing relief for the Nepalese people.

He said he would prepare a "productive oriented" plan to cope with the local shortages of consumer goods and to control market prices.

An official announcement of the new government's formation and an oath-taking ceremony for Mr. Rijal to be held at the royal palace were expected later Friday.

Meanwhile, sources close to Mr. Rijal indicated that the new government would likely be composed of a ten-member Council of Ministers, including six cabinet-rank ministers and four state ministers with independent portfolios.

Only Education and Foreign Affairs Minister Ranadhir Subba, Health and Land Reform Minister Rudra Prasad Giri and State Minister For local Administration Lila Raj Bista are to be retained in the interim government with the same portfolios, the sources added.

According to Nepalese constitution, the interim government is due to serve a term of three months, during which 112 new parliament members are to be elected to join with 28 others appointed by the king to form a new government.

The 140 members of the National Panchayat are then expected to elect a new prime minister in late June.

PRC Officials Leave After Conducting Trade Talks

HK200814 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Kathmandu, March 20 (AFP) — Chinese trade officials left here Thursday after agreeing to help Nepal set up mills, maintain a highway linking Kathmandu and Lhasa, increase imports and aid tourism.

The issues came up during five rounds of meetings held here by the China-Nepal intergovernmental committee for trade and economic relations.

A Nepalese Finance Ministry senior official told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE that China had agreed during the sessions to complete a paper mill and begin construction on a sugar refinery.

China said it would supply machinery for the setting up of a tyre factory, set up two brick factories, and maintain the 26 kilometre (16 mile) Barhabise-Kodari sector of the Chinese-aided Kathmandu-Kodari highway linking the Tibetan capital Lhasa for the next two years.

It will send technicians to prepare the design and survey of 60 kilometres (38 miles) of the Pokhara-Baglung highway, increase the volume of imports from Nepal, and extend fullest cooperation for the development of tourism.

An eight-member Chinese team led by Wang Wendong, assistant minister for China's foreign economic and trade relations, and Nepalese officials led by D.D. Chand, assistant finance minister, participated.

SRI LANKA

Parliament Approves Extension of State of Emergency

BK201309 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The proposal for the extension of the state of emergency by a further month was passed by a two-third majority in parliament a short while ago — 126 members voted for the proposal, no member voted againt it.

Jayewardene Says Political Solution Unworkable

BK151609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan president says he cannot have a political solution to the ethnic problem until the militants are defeated or surrender. PTI quotes him as saying this in an interview with the London *TIMES*.

Mr Jayewardene said even if there is a political settlement, it cannot be implemented. At the same time, he said, he is prepared to talk to the militants and call the army to the barracks the moment the militants give up their campaign, as he put it. He made it clear that he is not willing to go far to compromise on the document drawn up after India offered its good offices.

Paper Criticizes Gandhi's Remarks on Ethnic Issue

BK150018 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 8 Mar 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Res Non Verba?"]

[Text] Indian prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, according to an All-India Radio announcement, has told the Indian Rajya Sabha that Sri Lanka should back its desire for a political solution to the ethnic problem with specific action towards its attainment.

Such generalisations rarely offer an effective rostrum for any malady. The test of matching words with deeds is simply a yardstick of sincerity, applicable alike to India, no less than to Sri Lanka.

It may be equally true that there are none so blind as those who *will* not see. In recent years, Sri Lanka has, palpably beyond doubt, consistently endeavoured to conciliate Tamil opinion. The enhanced status granted to the Tamil language, the appointment of Tamils to key positions never before held by them, the All-Party Conference, the Thimpu talks, the Ceasefire once declared in the North and East, the creation of a fully fledged University in Batticaloa, and the grant of citizenship to 95,000 Tamils of Indian origin surely provide some tangible testimony of the Lankan Government's desire to resolve a dispute that it inflicting new strains on it every day.

With the lessons of Punjab and Kashmir on her hands, India should be slow to cast incriminating aspersions at other countries.

Even now, it has been affirmed on behalf of the Government of this country that Sri Lanka is ready to negotiate on the terms of the Delhi draft.

Ironically, few in India seem inclined to demand specific action or an equally specific restraint of the people who terrorise the North and the East, people who lay mines on roads used by innocent villagers, people who shoot up whole families in humble Sinhala fishing villages, or attack Buddhist places of worship.

The Indian Government may not have had time, of course, to examine the full implication of the mass kidnap of some 130 Grama Sevakas or local officials who were invited to talks designed to bring about better understanding and an easier life-style in some of the strife-torn areas.

Indian criticism, today, almost begins to sound like sabre-rattling. Surely, India knows only too well what damage terrorism can do. Surely, she accepts the position that there can be no compromise with death-dealers and political assassins.

Undoubtedly, there are many reasons, the refugee question apart, why the unrest prevailing in the North and East should concern India. In today's world more than ever, it becomes your business when your neighbour's fence catches fire.

But good neighbourliness demands that you do not fan the flames that threaten him and indirectly the whole region; that is to say good neighbourliness is also proved by deeds and not mere words; by idle censure least of all.

The Indian Government is surely aware of the repeated appeals to it to dismantle terrorist camps on the Indian mainland, to halt the flow of arms to the rebel groups in the island. That would save innocent lives, that would end the refugee problem soon enough.

Some meaningful action by India, then, might be as much in season as that which she demands of the people of this island.

Terrorists Said Preparing To Move Arms to North

BK191112 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] According to informed sources, Sri Lankan terrorists are preparing to move large consignments of arms across Palk Strait to the north for a planned attack on a security forces establishment in the Jaffna peninsula. The consignments were said to have been moved from the coastal town of (Vedrain) from Madurai.

Reportage on Fighting Between Tamils, Soldiers

19 Die in 21 Mar Clash

HK211410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 21 (AFP) — Eighteen militant Tamil separatists and a Sri Lankan soldier have been killed in clashes in the Northern Province, officials said here Friday.

Twelve separatists were killed and 17 arrested after they attacked government troops with small arms and grenades in Vavuniya District Thursday, a National Security Ministry spokesman said.

Residents in the area said that troops on a search operation had opened fire in the village of Nedunkerny, killing 15 people and setting fire to 10 houses and eight shops.

Troops had set fire to another 10 houses in Ertumuril in the same area and arrested 14 people, they added.

The ministry spokesman said he did not know whether houses and shops had been burned, but added that when "terrorists" who attacked troops were killed, it was often reported that civilians had been killed and houses burned.

The Joint Operations Command (JOC), the main anti-guerrilla headquarters, said Friday that six Tamil militants were killed in northeastern Mullaitivu Friday when troops out on an operation were attacked with mortars and small arms.

Later Friday, one soldier was killed when militants attacked an army camp in Thondamannar in the northern Jaffna Peninsula with mortars, JOC sources said.

'Terrorists' Killed in Kilinochchi

BK171113 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Seven Marxist terrorists were killed and one injured when security forces opened fire at Kilinochchi in northern Sri Lanka yesterday after the terrorists, traveling in a tractor, had thrown three hand grenades at the troops patrolling the area. The troops were patrolling the Kilinochchi area when they noticed a tractors and a trailor approaching them. The trailor was carrying a number of men and women.

Meanwhile, troops clearing a bridge, which had been blown up by the terrorists yesterday, captured three Marxist terrorists belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE].

Forty-six Marxist terrorists were captured by the security forces yesterday at (Navalapi) in the eastern province. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that, on information received that the terrorists were operating in the (Navalapi) area, a search operation was conducted. The captured terrorists are being interrogated.

Tamil citizens in Kilinochchi are reported to have demonstrated against the terrorist attack on the Jaffna-bound train, which left

5 dead and over 30 persons seriously injured on Saturday. The citizens are said to have put up posters asking the terrorists not to indulge in such wanton acts.

Meanwhile, a railway official said yesterday that the estimated damage is around 6 million rupees with three carriages being completely destroyed and six others badly damaged. Railway sources said that the tracks will be repaired in the few days to ensure the food supply lines.

Mrs (Manuari Punneratnam), the wife of the district engineer of Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka, has been shot dead by terrorists. A spokesman for the National Security Ministry said that the terrorist group, LTTE, had claimed responsibility for the killing. No reason for the killing had been given so far.

The National Security Ministry spokesman also said that terrorists had robbed Mrs (Punnaratnam) of all her jewelry.

Delhi Report

BK170219 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, seven persons were killed yesterday when troops fired at them while they were traveling in a tractor in Killinochchi. Defense Ministry sources which described them as militants said the occupants of the tractors fired and threw grenades at the troops who returned the fire. An injured person was taken into custory. Defense Ministry sources further claimed that another militant was killed when security forces fired at a group of people attempting to plant landmines on a road leading to Velvatti town. The militants had earlier blasted a bridge connecting Velvatti landmass with Jaffna Peninsula.

Our Colombo correspondent Plaban Majumdar reports that the Sri Lankan high commissioner to India, Mr Bernard Tilakaratne, left for New Delhi yesterday after week-long consulations in Colombo.

Tamils Blow Up Navy Boat, Kill 25

HK190048 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 18 (AFP) — At least 25 Sri Lankan navymen were drowned Monday when Tamil separatist militants blew up their patrol boat with a sea mine, the PRESS TRUST Of INDIA (PTI) reported Tuesday.

The agency said in a report from Madras citing the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) that the blast occurred when the Navy boat was on a patrol to locate sea mines off the Oorkhavalthurai area of the island.

Following the incident, the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire in Oorkhavalthurai injuring three people and badly damaging two houses, the PTI report said, adding that the situation in the area was tense.

In another incident Monday, five Muslims were killed in the Kenniya area, near Trincomalee in the Eastern Province, during a clash between home guards and Tamil militants.

The victims were returning home after work, PTI said quoting a release by the Eelam People's Information Centre in Madras.

The EPRLF is one of several militant Tamil separatist groups which have their bases in Madras, the capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Government Denies Vessel Sunk

HK190506 Hong Kong AFP in English 0451 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 19 (AFP) — The government denied Wednesday that Tamil separatists blew up a Naval patrol vessel killing 25 sailors in the northern waters on Monday. "No patrol craft was blown up nor were any sailors killed," National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) was cited by the PRESS TRUST of INDIA as saying Tuesday that militants blew up a naval craft with sea mines near Kayts in the northern waters killing at least 25 sailors. In the statement made in Madras — capital of Tamil Nadu in southern India — the militants said that the vessel had been engaged in mine sweeping.

A high-ranking security source also denied the incident and said that the militants were trying to create the impression that they had mined the northern waters. Navy patrol craft do not carry such a large number of sailors, the source added.

Troops Kill 15 in Vavuniya

BK201603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 15 persons, including 1 woman have been shot dead by the security forces during a search operation in Nedunkeni near Vavuniya. The security operations, which reportedly started in the area last night, continued upto 1000 this morning. Three persons have been injured and 14 taken into custody. According to a complaint lodged by the chairman of the Nedunkeni Grama Udaya Mandala [village resurgence group] with the civil authorities (?in) Vavuniya, all those killed are cultivators or shopkeepers of the area. The armymen reportedly came in one jeep, two armored cars and six tractors and removed seven dead bodies. There have also been complaints of largescale looting. There is no official statement on the incident.

4 'Terrorists' Killed, 17 Captured

BK211323 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Four Marxist terrorists were killed and 17 others were captured when security forces effectively repulsed a terrorist attack at Nedunkeni in Vavuniya yesterday. Security forces were

attacked by Marxist terrorist across the security bases at Nedunkeni [words indistinct]. The security forces returning the fire killed 4 terrorists and capturing 17. Two shotguns and [words indistinct] and terrorist literature were recovered by the security forces. There were no casualties among the troops.

S. Gunasekharan, [words indistinct] and active member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE — was captured by the security forces at Kilinochchi yesterday.

Messages Addressed to Nation on New Year's Day

Khomeyni Appears on TV

LD202232 Tehran IRNA in English 2223 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA — In his message to the nation on the occasion of the Iranian new year (Nowruz March 21) the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, called on Iran's Muslim people to devote themselves more wholeheartedly to the ideals of Islam and make sincere effort for freeing their souls from attachment to profane values.

The imam who appeared on the Iranian television network also paid lavish tribute to Muslim combatants fighting in the battle-fronts and lauded them for safeguarding Islam in a holy war.

Starting his new year's day message with a familiar supplication attributed to Imam 'Ali (AS) and imploring the Almighty to transform the inner selves of Muslim men and women to the best possible example of a human being, the imam called on the masses to reflect on the philosophy and purpose of man's life on the earth and rather than indulge in sinful acts think of how they can do away with selfish and mundane pursuits.

Imam Khomeyni also prayed to God for the spiritual transformation of a small sector of the society who might be indifferent to the self-sacrificing struggle of Iran's Muslim combatants and expressed hope that that which dims the eyes of the people and paralyzes their humane faculties may be cast away so that in the new year every Muslim may walk firmly in a divine path inspired by an inner light of sublime knowledge.

Tehran Cites Khameyni Address

LD210330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2205 GMT 20 Mar 86

[12-minute address by the leader and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to the Iranian nation on the occasion of the Islamic New Year; place and date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] I pray to God to effect a change in our present spiritual state. We still are involved in our worldly whims and God is aware. God can save us. O God, please do not allow the victories we have gained to have an adverse effect upon us, to make us proud, or to divert us from the path of the prophets, peace be upon them. I hope the new year will be blessed for all the Islamic nations, especially the oppressed nation of Iran which has spent many long years in bondage. Just as the spirit of our dear combatants who are present on the battlefronts, and God willing, will continue to be present, have been transformed, I hope God will change our spirits in the way that will please him. All the teachings of Gods's prophets boil down to two words, specifically divine knowledge. This is the basic premise. If they have extended invitations to us to act in a righteous manner, to cleanse our spirits, to follow religious traditions, it all originates from one basic point. They all have attempted to reveal the one main point that exists in the nature of all men which enables man to achieve that objective — divine knowledge. That is the supreme goal.

The prophets did not want war. They did not want to call on people to do that. They did not wish to invite people to participate in conquering other countries or such ideas. If we do not change our course from that of the prophets, because of the eye-catching victories we have gained with God's blessing, then this new year will be blessed and we will be victorious. If, God forbid, these victories make us proud and cause us to value this world, or make us wish to expand our country and rule over people, then we will not be any different from other superpowers; rather, we will be further behind than they are. The superpowers explicitly state their objectives and say they want to take over the world. They say they intend to protect their interests even if it means trampling on other countries. We have such claims. We consider ourselves followers of Islam. So, if in our hearts we pursue the idea of gaining more power and more prestige, ruling, and expanding our domain, then we will be worse than they since there would be the question of trickery in our case as well.

I would like to thank all the youths from various walks of life and from different corners of the country who have been going to the fronts. They have been through this transformation; the new year's prayers have been answered in their cases to a large extent. Their spiritual condition is different from ours. They go to battlefields, war fronts, to the bosom of death, with smiling faces and strong hearts. When you see them you realize they are different from us. We pray to God to transform us in the same way. We must thank them and pray for them. I do pray for them. We all are dutybound to pray for all our youths, the wayfarers of Karbala, the Guardsmen, the military personnel, the Armed Forces, the mobilization forces, all of them. They are protecting Islam. I hope they will have more eye-catching victories in this new year and that Islam will be strengthened. God willing, all the plots pursued by the world to strengthen our enemies and to push us back, will backfire on them, which is what God Almighty has made happen up to now. We should give our thanks to His presence.

I wish to address the families of martyrs, families of the disabled, the missing, the POW's, and all those who have suffered in this country as a result of the war. They have suffered hardships for God and God will reward them. But it is our duty to pray for them and congratulate them for having such youths. We must congratulate them on raising their youths in such a pure atmosphere. We must congratulate them for being so spiritually strong that they can send their youths to the war, to a place where the possibility of death exists, God forbid. We thank them and pray for them. We pray to God to grant them patience and to reward them. We pray to God to bless them on this new year and new day. We pray to God to transform our hearts, make us realize why we have come to this world, what we must do now that we are in this world, and how we must leave it. We must not die an animal's death; we must not commit sins and be disgraced because of those in the other world.

May God support us and help us to become more human. Islam was brought to this world to make more humane human beings. All prophets had the objective of making man look inward, into his nature to become cognizant of his divine nature and turn to God. Everything is known to God. May God grant us a little knowledge to make us understand this, to understand what we ourselves are, and what the world is in relation to God Almighty,

what the true situation is. It is easy to say everything is transient, but it is difficult to grasp the matter, to realize what the prophets wanted us to do and who they were. Although they were such sublime beings, they confessed to their weakness. That is right since that is proof of these matters.

I hope our combatants and all our Armed Forces will unite and follow the same direction, just as they have done to fortify the fronts and rid the Muslims, the Government and nation of Iraq, and our nation from the evil that has befallen them. I hope they will be able to carry out their own wishes and do the job without delay. God willing they will be victorious. I pray to God to make them victorious; I pray to God to grant us and everyone else victory in our battle against ourselves. I pray to God to make us realize our duties, make us aware of our duties to this nation, accept our services which are intended for them and for you. I pray to God to protect us morally and materially, to make this year a blessed one for all the strata of our nation.

Please God, turn the hearts of those who oppose this Republic for You are the transformer of hearts. Transform them and make them more human and more aware. They are sitting outside the arena and either express happiness every time our youths are wasted or are indifferent. Please God, transform their hearts to healthy ones,take away these blindfolds from our eyes, and make us successful in diligently following divine issues. Shine the light of divine knowledge into our hearts, the hearts of all our nation. Peace be upon you all.

Khamene'i Cites Victories

LD210111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2218 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Message from President Khamene'i to the Iranian nation on the occasion of the Islamic new year — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the occasion of auspicious new year which coincides with the anniversary of the glorious birthday of the holy Javad, may God's peace be upon him, I convey my good wishes sincerely and from the bottom of my heart to our beloved imam, our respected compatriots, and our heroic nation. I especially convey good wishes to the dear combatants, those in the trenches of the battlefronts of justice, and those defending integrity and independence of the nation; and also to the dear families of the martyrs, the POW's, the MIA's, the self-sacrificing ones, and those wounded in the imposed war.

Fortunately the new year is breaking at a time when our nation has savored the sweet taste of some victories. Even if some beloved ones have become martyrs in the course of these victories and some families are in grief, these victories — the victory of Islam, the glory and greatness of the revolution, and the illustrious face of the Iranian nation as seen throughout the world — are doubtless of great and exalted value to the nation and even to the families of the martyrs themselves. During the year that has ended, our victories were fortunately not limited to military victories. We also enjoyed some success on the international scene because we are present in a world that is looking at the revolution and the nation, especially from the African Continent, amid deprived and oppressed nations where some of the greatest injustices to human beings are still continuing. Of course, just as our dear nation has shown, we must not be satisfied with any one of these victories, and the move, the struggle, the fight, and the steadfastness must continue until the moment when the exalted objectives of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution have been reached.

We must bring our country to the point wherein it achieves genuine and all-round independence, self-sufficiency, and economy in its science and industry. We must be able to secure the great desires of the people, the slogans of our revolution — that is, total justice — complete well-being, and complete freedom. We must be able to eliminate all the roots of misery, with God's grace, in this country and burn these roots. Evidently it is in this way, that the revolution will convey its true message to the nations of the world, especially to the oppressed nations. It is true that the spirit of our revolution, the resistance of our nation until today, and the stability of the Republic, have been the greatest lessons to the enslaved and oppressed nations. These have also been the biggest warning and notice to world-devouring opportunists and power-seekers. However, we will only be the total hope to nations under oppression who look toward our revolution, our nation, and our country as a genuine model when we have largely achieved these objectives and aspirations and enjoy them.

I hope that the struggle and movement that our nation, with God's grace and with the prophetic leadership of our dear imam and the all-round courage of our Muslim women and men, has undertaken and continued up to now will carry on. The year that has just begun will, God willing, will be happy, fruitful, and full of instructive experiences; may it be a year, God willing, that will enable us to take steps toward our objectives. We must, in this year, continue to see to public welfare, to assist the deprived and helpless. We must see to universal literacy and education; purge the climate and atmosphere of education, especially at the universities and secondary schools, of past traditions; and we must continue our all-round steps on the path of cultural, economic, and political independence. Perhaps through God's favor, we may, God willing, be able to call this year the year of final victory in the imposed war.

With renewed salutes and greeting to you all dear brothers and sisters, especially to the dear families of the martyrs, the missing, the wounded, the self-sacrificing ones, and the POW's, I shall end this brief message. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on War With Iraq

GF200810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam's deputy in the Supreme Defense Council, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 19 March — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Could you please tell us what topics were discussed at the Supreme Defense Council session?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We reviewed the war situation, the situation at the fronts, and future circumstances in order to make decisions concerning the war. We also discussed other problems concerning the graduates, those who receive their degrees, since there were certain ambiguities in the laws passed by the Revolution Council in the early days of the revolution concerning their exemption from military service, at a certain age. We reviewed this and concluded that the rule applied to times of peace and not war and that the present policy should continue, that is, they should continue to go in for military service.

Concerning the problems of POW's, the Commission for Support of POW's debated reinforcing the commission and decisions were made on various related humanitarian issues.

[Correspondent] During recent days, we have witnessed bestial attacks upon our residential, urban, and rural areas. The Islamic Republic announced that the necessary response would occur. My question is: What will be the nature of this necessary response and reaction?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is the same as our former policy, which the War Information Headquarters has reiterated. Our war policy concerning attacks on economic installations — cities, and in general, civilian areas — is one of relatiation, (?not) one of initial aggression. We never initiate attacks on economic installations. We believe that these centers should remain for the future, as they belong to the people. Iraq is for the people. We plan to take Iraq from the Ba'th Party and give it to the people. Hence the (?policy) that we have envisaged for our defense does not include attacking economic installations.

Concerning the cities, we consider it inhuman, in principle. We consider the people of Iraq part of us, the civilians that is. We do not feel that it is proper to commit aggression against them — even the selection of Al-Faw in these operations was because it is uninhabited — except in cases when we are forced to do so. If Iraq attacks nonmilitary installations and residential areas and if we do not retaliate, Iraq would become more belligerent and our people would have to bear the brunt of this. Hence, under such conditions we are forced to resort to retaliation to force the Iraqis to refrain from future aggression.

There are international regulations concerning retaliation and revenge; we do not disagree. Our country acts according to international regulations in this regard. There is also the human factor and the (?Islamic) factor on defending civilians. We act on this. We have instructed our military forces that artillery fire must hit Iraqi economic installations and that the target must be the same as the Iraqi bombing targets. We have issued the same instructions to the Air Force to attack Iraqi territory, of course after similar Iraqi actions.

[Correspondent] Contrary to Western analysts who stated and wrote that the war would not have a victor, the Islamic combatants have proven that this war has a victor. What do you believe in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You have seen for yourself what the situation is these days. We have attacked the most difficult point at the fronts and we were victorious. No one can deny this. Crossing of the Arvand Rud seemed impossible at the beginning of the war to military circles and military observers, but this is now a reality. Our infantry routed the enemy armored personnel and despite the difficulties of crossing the two (?natural obstacles) of Bahmanshir and Arvand, we were able to establish a very strong front. Our defense lines are consolidated on the front and so it has transpired that this war can have a victor, even if they say that it is not possible.

What happened in Al-Faw, will happen in Basra as well. It will be the same on the Basra highway, as well as in Baghdad. Whenever we think it proper, it shall be done in this area. We do not foresee any hindrance and we feel that there can be a victor in this war. We have also stated that we prefer to refrain from bloodshed and Iraq and its supporters should heed our demands and accept them, in this way problems would be resolved.

[Correspondent] What are your views on the U.S. threat and [word indistinct]?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We consider this the noise of hollow drums. One thing however, it has a particular objective. If the threat is serious — of course I do not consider it serious — the United States would lose if it were to commit aggression against us, whether here or elsewhere around the world. In any case, (?it is impossible) for anyone to do such a thing. Our people would not take it lying down and they would not ignore the aggressor. In fact the United States is more vulnerable than Iraq. Iraq is here, adjacent to us, and it is availing itself of the facilities provided by the United States, the Soviet Union, France, reactionary Arabs, and Zionists, yet it is still (?in this state). The United States wishes to come to this part of the world [words indistinct] and to cross land and sea. I believe it is a mere threat, the objective being only to strengthen the supporters of Saddam, especially those in the area. Even those who have invested in Iraq in any manner and have some sort of business there are trembling with fear because tomorrow they will have to deal with the Iraqi nation, not with Saddam. In principle they are fearful, especially France, which has invested there, and Great Britain, which is also an investor. They should do something to preserve Saddam in regard to his supporters. Saddam is not fighting on the basis of his own strength, as far as I can see. If they leave him now, he will lose his balance. All of our enemy's strength stems from them propping him up by continuing their assistance to him. The United States, France, and Great Britain say such things because they believe that all of their strength is concentrated there, but [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] In light of the recommendations of the UN team's report on the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons, what is the Islamic Republic's opinion (?on the same)?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We still hold our previous views, but what has now been clarified is that Saddam must be overtly condemned as the aggressor. However, mere condemnation is not enough and a demand for his chastisement must be made. What is more important is that Iraq must be specified as the aggressor. If Iraq is recognized as the aggressor and if the preliminaries to establish an international tribunal to impeach the aggressor, Saddam, are implemented all would be resolved and the path to

end the war would be cleared. If such a step is taken by the Security Council, I believe it would be beneficial and the result would be desirable. Anything else is a different matter, but the declaration of condemnation is appropriate. That is, what the United Nations has done, what the secretary-general has done, opens many paths. It is a correct and human gesture, but more could be done.

[Correspondent] Some area countries feel that they are in some danger and the imperialist news agencies are playing this up. In the near future the GCC session is to convene. What is your opinion of the claims of the reactionary states of the area on this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is not true that they are in any danger. We have declared that we are ready to ignore the past. Whatever the reason they may have had for assisting Iraq in the war — of course it is a cardinal sin — if they amend their policy, it is forgivable and we can ignore it. The future depends on their actions. If they wish to participate in the war, it is natural that [word indistinct] cannot ignore it. We spoke to them, but did not threaten them in lieu of their past. We told Kuwait that if, for example, it places Bubiyan Island at the disposal of Iraq, the island would be considered a war zone. We would not hesitate to take it, and if we take it, it would be from the hands of Iraq, not Kuwait. This is not to be considered a threat, merely advice, so that they do not give it to Iraq.

Another example is if they wish to assist Saddam's forces until his downfall it would be a source of danger, because if we do not protest the Iraqi nation would not forgive them once it is liberated. This would bring about many problems. Iraqis would be killed and there would be losses for us and Iraq. The Iraqi nation, we feel, will (?come to power) and tomorrow claim these losses from Kuwait. They will say: If you had not given assistance, there would have been no protracted war. They would note that formerly there was no such loss of life and property. In fact if they do not discontinue their support and indifference, they will be answerable in the future.

This does not mean that we should fight with them, or that we should expand the scope of war with them. Until the last moment in the war we will strive for the war to not spread beyond Iraq and for no other country to be harmed. Our restraint is immense and we are ignoring many of Kuwait's acts in the hope that they will listen and not consider our advice a threat and see that we are good neighbors and not proud, and that we would not harm our neighbors in the event of victory. Instead we would be very cordial neighbors who would cooperate with them in the problems of the area.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iraqi Air Force commander announced that our economic installations would be attacked. What are your opinions on the threat?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course it is possible that they may do this. In fact they have attempted to do this over the past 2 or 3 days, but they have not been successful. They make exaggerated threats. For example, they say that they went to a certain place and destroyed 500 tanks and armored carriers, while in fact they have attacked a village and martyred the people there. Their pilots give them false reports or they disseminate fabricated reports themselves to boost the people's morale. This is what they have done in Al-Faw and other places. They do not know that Khuzestan does not have 500 tanks or armored vehicles in one place. Anyone who knows the abc's of war knows that they cannot attack 500 tanks and vehicles in one place. They are camouflaged in a military manner, and their route is decided — even five tanks cannot be hit by an airplane.

Concerning attacks on economic installations, they have attacked and have been successful in some places and unsuccessful in others. If they want us to retaliate, and if we decide to do so, we can attack far more economic installations, as they are nearer to us. Our installations are deeper inside. It is bitter for us, but we have no choice but to defend ourselves.

[Correspondent] Kuwait has alleged that there are dangerous floating (?mines) in the waters of the area. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, have these been planted by the Ba'thist regime?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is possible that they have been planted by them, as the Iraqis have mined many places in the northern Persian Gulf since the beginning of the war. It is possible that some of the mines are ours because we have mined the mouth of Khawr 'Abdallah recently. It is possible that the flux of tides has taken the mines toward the other side and the waters of Kuwait. Khawr 'Abdallah is on the Bubiyan Island coast, where we have planted mines which do not concern them and which should not come out of Khawr 'Abdallah as Kuwait (?has said). In any case, if they are our mines, they have not been planted for Kuwait, but for Iraq. If they have moved near Kuwaiti areas it is because of the water.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the latest U.S., French, and British moves? The section of the U.S. fleet which has docked at Karachi port and the coming of French battleships for [words indistinct] and the recent British [words indistinct] without any questions from the reactionary regimes of the area?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As I said earlier, it is to boost the morale of Saddam and his supporters, and to test whether we consider it a serious threat. It does not mean that we have become totally indifferent and that we should say that there is no danger, as they are empty vessels. Empty vessels, under certain conditions, can change into serious threats. My analysis is that their main objective is to reinforce the Saddam regime, which is tottering, and the area of our opponents. It could also pertain to the question of oil. Their policy concerning oil-rich areas is implemented by some of the countries of the area and is a form of support for Saddam. To a certain extent, if we believe that if one should be cautious in the face of such threats, and if we suppose that one day we will be the victims of their aggression, then we tell the people that they should be prepared. We feel that to prevent such an incident in the area, we can instruct our Armed Forces to be prepared, if our people are present on the scene, if our fronts are replete with alert forces, and if we can remain alert on all fronts in the north and south. Hence we should be prepared and not very anxious.

[Correspondent] What is your view on the OPEC session in Geneva and will the Third World OPEC countries be more aware so that their natural resources are not further pillaged?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not have any more information than what has transpired concerning the in camera session in Geneva. The view we have is that the session is (?taking place). What is clear is that the industrial world, including all of the oil-rich countries in the Persian Gulf and other regions, have mustered all resources to break oil (?prices) and this is continuing. However, to break the price (?war) is more expensive than they are aware and the repercussions would not be pleasant in the long run. I feel that the collars [as heard] of many will be caught in this and even those of the industrial powers.

[Correspondent] On the eve of the new year, I request of Your Excellency any special message for our combatants.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our combatants have sweetened the end of the year. The booming salvos that they have sounded on the fronts have changed the atmosphere of the country and the world and have gladdened the Hezbollahis and the friends of Islam. This is the same as during the first days of the war and has made the country euphoric and the people of Iran thank the dear Islamic combatants and laud them. The new year is in fact a time to celebrate the rights of the nation and of Islam. We have (?crushed the enemy) and we should have proved to the world that Islam is capable of defending itself and can manage itself. We can tell the people to concentrate their attention on the fronts during the festival of Nowruz [the Iranian new year]. Today our combatants are the center of attention of the people and instead of going to places of entertainment and on trips, they should focus on the fronts and increase their vigilance in case our enemy is stricken by a schizophrenic fit and attempts dastardly or desperate attacks. If he initiates adventurism by embarking on a war of cities and commits any audacious act in the urban areas and [word indistinct], we shall have a new (?approach). The combatants should be prepared to answer this mischief mongering on the fronts. We shall answer tit for tat. I send our warm salutations and we pray for them and as our dear leader the imam always prays for them. We are awaiting their victories.

Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Visits Tehran

Arrives With Al-Asad Message

LD201528 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — The Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', carrying a message from the Syrian President Hafez al-Asad for President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran arrived here this afternoon and was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Valayati.

In a brief interview with IRNA, the Syrian foreign minister said that the trip was within the framework of strengthening friendly and mutual relations. He said that in his meeting with President Khamene'i he will discuss further strengthening of bi-lateral ties.

Following the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution of Iran, Syria has established very good ties with Iran and these relations will continue to grow further, he added.

Meets With Musavi

LD201802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived this afternoon in Tehran and was met by our country's Foreign Minsiter Velayati. On arrival in Tehran the Syrian foreign minister described the objective of his visit as being the delivery of a written message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Khamene'i. He stated: This trip falls within the initiatives that are in process between the two friendly countries toward strengthening their relations and in meetings with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the expansion of relations between the two countries will be discussed. He stressed: Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Syria has had very good relations with Iran, and these good and familiar relations will continue.

This afternoon, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met and conferred with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. In this meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, Faruq al-Shar' conveyed the salutes and greetings of the prime minister of Syria to the Government and people of Iran and wished the Islamic Republic of Iran success in the coming year. Prime Minister Musavi, giving thanks for the cordiality expressed in the message of the Syrian leader, stressed the need to expand regional and international political and economic cooperation between Syria and Iran. In this meeting, the latest political and economic developments of the region were examined and discussed.

Discusses OPEC With Khamene'i

LD202235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister and special envoy of Hafiz al-Asad, today met with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i our country's president. In this meeting Faruq al-Shar' delivered Hafiz al-Asad's message to Mr. Khamene'i. While commenting on our very solid and friendly bilateral relations, Faruq al-Shar' stressed bilateral cooperation and unity in connection with the struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

During this meeting, Mr Khamene'i also referred to conditions existing in the region, especially to the question of OPEC and stated: Our enemies have cut the price of oil in half but we do not accept these imposed prices. Mr Khamene'i added: Although there has been great international pressure on OPEC, we have had very good cooperation from OPEC members, and on the whole, we hold the winning card. In general, we do not believe the issue of oil is an ordinary one and we will act decisively in this connection. Even now, signs of our success and of the withdrawals of our enemies within OPEC can be observed. Mr Khamene'i added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has a very important role to play in devising the bright future of OPEC, and through extensive activities throughout recent months, it has succeeded in preparing some suitable grounds. The president added: We are at present engaged in a war, but we shall make as much effort as is needed to fulfill our just demands in OPEC, and the truth is

that we are not afraid of the problems that others have imposed on us and we shall succeed in the end.

Mr Khamene'i added: There is no doubt that our supremacy in the war will confront Saddam with a dangerous future which the Western powers do not like or that those who will lose out inside OPEC are those who are not pleased with our victories in the war. We also believe that if we change the war to the desirable direction we envisage, this without doubt will also affect OPEC's situation. Doubtless, some of the pressures being brought upon us through the oil issue are to stop us from succeeding on the war front.

Mr Khamene'i added: Today, Syria, among other Arab countries, is reknowned for its resistance in the face of Zionism and countries that are compromising with Zionism; this very issue has given Syria prominence. Our people are fond of Syria for this very reason.

After Mr Khamene'i's remarks, Faruq al-Shar' said: We are proud of the genuine statements of the president about Syria in connection with that country's steadfastness. We shall never compromise over our faith and rights and we emphasize that the friendly relations between Syria and Iran will continue and will become increasingly stronger.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i expressed his thanks for the fraternal message of Hafiz al-Asad and asked Faruq al-Shar' to convey warm greetings from the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Hafiz al-Asad.

Foreign Affairs Ministry Sends Note to UN on Iraq

LD201305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the renewed violation of international laws by the Iraqi regime's raids against civilian centers and warned against the extension of such raids in a note it sent to the UN secretary general. The note emphasized: In accordance with its permament policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not wish to be forced to take unilateral action which aims to curb Iraqi crimes of launching raids against civilian centers.

The note emphasized Iraq's recent raids against the population centers in Rabat and Shadegan, resulting in the martyrdom or injury of a number of the inhabitants of these areas, and referred to the impossibility of obtaining security guarantees through the United Nations from Iraq for the benefit of the UN inspection team visiting the bombed areas. The note further reads: Just as it has been reflected in the UN note, the opportunity for a visit by the team and the preparation of report for Your Excellency was not made possible. However, in view of the knowledge which Your Excellency has of previous Iraqi raids on cities and civilian centers, and the numerous official and unofficial reports you have at your disposal, there is probably no need to prepare more updated reports corroborating recent Iraqi raids.

In its violations of international and humanitarian rules, Iraq has created such a frightful precedent that the perpetration of any other crime by that regime seems quite natural. Although the preparation of such documents continues to remain useful and even essential for preliminaries, forecasts, and necessary international reactions, what is important in these circumstances is that Iraq, as already forecast, is about to expand its raids aginast cities and civilian areas. Raids and numerous sorties by the Iraqi regime's military aircraft on the cities and population centers of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 2 days clearly demonstrate this issue.

In accordance with its permanent policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not willing to be forced to adopt unilateral action which aims to curb Iraqi crimes in connection with its raids against civilian areas. At the same time in order to safeguard such a position, it is essential that the necessary measures be carried out by the United Nations! In our opinion, a stance adopted by you personally could become extremely effective in curbing further acts of adventurism by Iraq!

Charge to Muscat Meets With Omani Oil Minister

LD142038 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Oman's Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari Wednesday said that his country agreed with the need to reduce oil production by the OPEC members as well as other oil producers.

In a meeting with Iran's Charge d'Affaires to Muscat Qasem Hasani Tabatabai the minister said that oil producing countries have so far lost dlrs. 73 billion as a result of oil price conspiracy. He added that cooperation of the OPEC members could prevent further losses.

The Omani minister also said he was not in favor of a complete halt in oil production but noted that his country would cooperate with OPEC.

Also in the session the charge d'affaires described recent developments of Iraq-Iran war as well as Iranian latest victories.

Tabatabai referred to the instability of the Iraqi forces and said Iranian combatants intend to decisively oust the Ba'thist regime.

Charge to Harare Meets Zimbabwean Minister

LD181003 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — A Zimbabwean official deplored Iraqi usage of chemical weapons in its war against Iran and said that now it had become clear to all that Iraq is the aggressor.

The Zimbabwean agriculture minister in a meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires in Harare, Seyyed Aqa'e, expressed hope to visit Iran soon.

The two sides reviewed mutual economic and agricultural ties as well as Iran's victories achieved in the recent Val-Fajr 8 and 9 offensives.

In another meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires in Harare, the deputy foreign minister of Zimbabwe hoped that a high-ranking delegation of his country would visit Iran soon to discuss expansion of bilateral political and economic relations as well as regional and international issues with Iranian officials.

Greek Police Officer Taps Diplomat's Phone

LD172137 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Athens, March 17 IRNA — The Greek political, satirical weekly *PONDIKI (THE MICE)* in its recent issue disclosed a case involving the tapping of the telephone conversations of an Iranian diplomat in Athens by a policeman working for the Greek Intelligence Agency (KYP).

The usually well-informed weekly writes that the policeman, Andreas G. Koupakis, was asked by another foreign diplomat against payment to tap the telephone of the Iranian diplomat last May who lives in the Melissa suburb of Athens. The cultural counsellor of the Iranian Embassy lives in this area. Koupakis bugged the telephone of the diplomat which was linked to a microwave receiver in his car which was parked near the office of the Greek telecommunication organisation of the area.

The policeman's activities were discovered by other colleagues and after a hearing, he was expelled from the Greek police services on 12.12.1985.

Koupakis admitted that the microwave receiver belonged to him, but said that the telephone was followed by another policeman on his account. The *PONDIKI* does not mention who was the diplomat who requested the tapping of the Iranian diplomat.

International Atomic Energy Agency Approves Proposal

LD171346 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Prov., March 17, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) 'Ali Asghar Sultaniyeh said here Sunday that despite oppositions of the United States in the latest session of the agency, Iran's proposal calling for condemnation of any military attack against atomic establishment, was approved.

Sultaniyeh, currently here to attend the conference on nuclear sciences and technology, added that according to the resolution the violator would be deprived of the agency's membership. He said that due to the active role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the agency during the past four years, over 130 scholarships have been offered to the Iranian experts in this field.

Referring to the measures taken by Iran within the framework of the agency, Sultaniyeh said that prior to the Islamic revolution, Iran had signed a contract with the U.S. under which the U.S. would supply the required reactor fuel of Iran's atomic energy organization.

But, he added, the U.S. while charging Iran enormous amount of money refrained from delivering the needed reactor fuel.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran took the issue to the agency and called for the condemnation of the U.S. for threatening the development of nuclear technology in the world.

He expressed hope that within charter of the agency the Islamic Republic of Iran could unite Third World countries to achieve their legitimate rights in the field of nuclear science and technology.

Women Marchers Proclaim Support for Combatant Brothers

LD141602 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Following the imam of the Islamic nation's guidelines on the preparedness of Muslim revolutionary women for defending the Islamic homeland, and coinciding with the 2,000th day of epics and selflessness during the imposed war, a vast army of pious, committed Mobilization women marched in most parts of the country along the thoroughfares leading to today's Friday prayers. They expressed their support for their combatant brothers and sons on the warfronts and their active presence behind the fronts.

According to reports, a vast army of selfless sisters bearing placards inscribed with slogan "2,000 Days of Resistance!" and chanting the slogans: "War, War, Till Victory;" "We Are the Followers of the Imam;" "We Are Ready for Jihad;" and "Islam's Combatants, Thank You, Thank You" proclaimed their readiness during these marches to learn the military arts.

In Tehran also vast groups of pious women, bearing weapons and placards supporting Islam's fighting combatants, proclaimed their firm resolve in backing their brothers on the battlefronts of good against evil. The companies of the Mobilization sisters once again proved their vast presence on the arenas of revolution and war.

Holding a rally in Tehran University, the marchers adopted an 11-article resolution, which reads:

We, Iran's committed Muslim women, while renewing our allegiance to the imam of the Islamic nation, consider rule by Velayat-e Faqih as an indissoluble principle of the revolution and, while backing and supporting the struggles waged by Islam's combatants against 'Aflaqite Saddam, do hereby proclaim our presence in and help for all the fronts.

Denouncing U.S. plots, put into effect by certain governments to desist from helping the criminal Saddam.

'Numerous' People Said Killed in Iraqi Clampdown

LD142140 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Beirut, 14 March, Irna — The Iraqi regime is unabashedly continuing its mockery of human rights. It recently detained and subsequently executed tens of young, according to the daily *AL-HAQIQAH* here Thursday.

The daily said that a human rights official in London has reported to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations that the Ba'thist regime had killed 200 young adults and arrested 300 others following protest (?demonstrations).

According to the report numerous people have been killed in a curfew clamp-down and house-to-house search by the Ba'thists in that city.

Kurdish 'Revolutionaries' Kill 20 Iraqi Troops

GF151842 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Hizballah Iraqi Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries last Thursday attacked a post belonging to the ruling Ba'thist-Zionist regime in Iraq in (Margasur). They killed 20 Ba'thist troops and destroyed 2 130-mm guns.

Another group of Muslim revolutionaries attacked enemy bases on the road between (Margasur) and (Puratu). They controlled the road for several hours.

Iraq Continues 'Oppressive Policies' Toward Kurds

LD171523 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The Iraqi regime, in line with its oppressive policies toward the Muslim Kurdish people of that country, has devastated 6,000 villages in Iraq's Kurdistan Province since 1975. Also, residents of 1,500 Kurdish villages near Khanaqin, Kirkuk, and (Zhingah) have been relocated to other parts of Iraq. According to a Central News Unit report, which quotes reliable sources, the Iraqi regime, overwhelmed by the uprisings by selfless Muslim Kurds, has executed thousands of innocent prisoners at Abu Ghorayb and Mosul. This is being carried out while thousands of Kurdish youths are being tortured at the harshest methods.

Iraqi Kurds Reportedly Attack Government Troops

LD181212 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] 'Urumiyeh, W. Azarbaijan Prov., March 18, IRNA — Iraqi Muslim Kurds took control of the Zakhu strategic transit road and attacked an Iraqi military vehicle in the city of Diyanah, northern Iraq, killing all its passengers, during the past few days.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Muslim Kurds attacked two military garrisons in northern Iraq, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi forces, and seizing large amount of Iraq ammunition.

To retaliate, the Iraqi regime attacked (Hamiri) village along Zakhu road and made its inhabitants homeless after bulldozing the village.

In the aftermath of the victorious Val-Fajr-9 offensive launched by Iran's Islamic combatants in northeastern Iraq, the Baghdad regime is increasing its pressure against the people of the area to enroll in Jaysh al-Sha'bi (the so-called People's Army).

Informed sources in Dhuk reported that the Iraqi regime had dismissed a group of school teachers in the city for not cooperating with the regime in suppressing the people in the area.

Meanwhile, tradesmen in Irbil are refraining from attending their shops as a sign of protest against enrollment in Jaysh al-Sha'bi.

Editorial Warns Iraq's Allies on Continued Support

GF171615 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Feb 86 p 1

[Editorial: "A Warning to Saddam's Supporters"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Eyewitness accounts by foreign correspondents on the great victories of the Islamic combatants in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations have removed all the deliberate uncertainties of the world oppressors and the supporters of Saddam and have removed all doubt from their minds. The supporters of Saddam know full well that a fatal blow has been given by these victorious operations to the decayed body of their slave. Since disclosure of the true news about these operations would have created many difficulties for them, they kept our victories secret, hoping that in this way they could, for some time at least, keep the world ignorant of the truth. This effort had two motives: They wanted to prevent the world from thinking that the forecasts of the Western analysts, who had months before announced that the Iran-Iraq war had reached a dead end and neither side could attain victory, had gone wrong. The other motive was to give respite to their defeated mercenaries in Baghdad so that they could continue in their slavery a little longer.

But these maneuvers did them no good because everything was known in the end. Even the propaganda machinery of the Zionists and the oppressors, which were silent for the time being, openly admitted the victories and announced what had befallen the shaky regime ruling Baghdad. However, now after the visit of the foreign correspondents to the area of the operations and seeing with their own eyes the port and City of Al-Faw in the possession of the Islamic combatants, everything is known to everybody, even to those who deliberately pretended that they did not know. Now there is nothing they can deny or doubt.

It is now time to advise the supporters of Saddam, but this will be our last advice to them. Listen carefully, you supporters of Saddam. The people who now possess Al-Faw City are Iranian Muslim combatants. They are the same people your mass media said are now unable to advance on any front. You also tried to show that this war had reached a dead end. You have now learned that you and your slave Saddam are helpless in the face of the achievements of the God-seeking combatants of Islam. You know full well now that it is you who have reached a dead end. You now fully understand that you can never correctly evaluate the capabilities and the battle strength of the sons of the revolution. Finally, you now understand the real state of things and you now understand that the strong soldiers of Islam, whenever they want to occupy a part of Iraqi territory, wherever it may be, can do so easily and nobody can stop them.

Now that you understand this, you should come to your senses and not support Saddam, who is nothing but a moving corpse. Saddam and his band are people who, according to your own words, cannot make use of the arms and war material which you place in their hands. They cannot even defend their own existence. Therefore, you should not have any doubt in your mind that he is about to fall and nothing on earth can save him. Now that you know the facts, you better open your ears and take seriously this warning of the Islamic Republic. You should abide by the terms laid down by the Islamic Republic to end the war. It is only in this way that everything will come to an end. Your experience must have shown you that the more you stand against the just and fair terms of the Islamic Republic the more you suffer. What would be better than that is if you learn from the past and do not depend on a person who is about to fall.

The warning of the Iranian nation to the supporters of Saddam, at a time when the victories of the Islamic combatants have become a wonder of the world, is this: If you do not end your support for this war criminal, that what you have seen in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations will continue until the holy land of Iraq is completely rid of the dirty existence of the Ba'thists. As the Islamic combatants have shown, they have the strength to carry out this job too. God Almighty also is their supporter.

Commentary Examines French Relations With Iraq

GF181935 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The defeat of the Socialists in France was expected by every French individual who lived through the most difficult phase in French history. The French lived on a land which was corrupted by the policies followed by the Socialists throughout their rule, whether in the field of politics or economics.

Those who will come into power will not be any better than those who have already left, and those who have left power are not any worse than those who will come into power. If we want to be more specific, the strongest candidate to chair the French Government, who is Jacques Chirac, is one of the strongest allies of Saddam's regime. He has always been urging France to increase its aid to this regime. The corrupted method adopted by France in its alliance with Saddam's regime was one of the main factors which caused deterioration of the French situation, whether it was the economic situation, as a result of the declining of the level of the effectiveness of the French companies that set up large investments in Iraq, or the reflection of this situation on the French policy and the developments following the kidnapping of the French hostages.

If those factors are the main reasons behind the fall of the Socialists, then France's adoption of this policy once again under the leadership of the right's government will lead to the fall once again. Any candidate who will chair the government will have before him a list of burdens which were left behind by the Socialist government and which are rooted in the unjust policy adopted during that government's rule.

The continuation of the previous policy will not further deepen the problems on the French arena alone, but will result in a repeat of the government's fall which this time will harm the allies of the French Socialists from among the French right.

IRGC Minister Says Fall of Umm Qasr 'Imminent'

LD201502 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — The Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Rafiqdust said here Thursday that the fall of the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr and its major naval base was imminent.

Speaking to IRNA he said that the ground and naval units of Iran have brought the major naval base in Umm Qasr and the port facilities under the range of their fire, making its fall definite and imminent.

Praising the role of the volunteers who have joined the Karbala caravans and also the Basij members in the victories gained during the Val-Fajr-8 offensive launched in Al-Faw peninsula, the IRGC minister said that the Basij members liberated the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw.

Through their strong will, he added, the Basij force will soon liberate the holy city of Karbala.

Rafiqdust said that Al-Faw is of a crucial strategic importance and enemy never thought that the Islamic force of Iran will be able to liberate it.

The enemy considered the area invulnerable, he added. However, the Islamic forces took over the city and all Iraqi attempts to retake it have failed, resulting in nothing but more humiliating defeats and higher rate of casualties and damages for Iraq, he stressed. "We are there to stay and will not leave it until we have liberated Iraq," He added.

Rafiqdust said that the play for formation of the Air Force unit of the IRGC has been prepared and the Majlis has approved the budget for it. The unit will soon be formed and will function alongside the ground and naval forces of IRGC.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Al-Faw Penetration Attempt Foiled

LD201234 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — The Iraqi attempt to penetrate positions of the Iranian Muslim combatants in Al-Faw peninsula were foiled Wednesday night, said a statement of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters here Thursday.

It added that Iranian artillery fire pounded two Iraqi companies which tried in vain to infiltrate Iranian positions in north of the salt lake in Val-Fajr-8 operational region.

Scores of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and the remainder of Iraqi companies were forced to flee, the report said.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' is the joint headquarters of Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Command Headquarters Destroyed
LD201600 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., March 20, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombarded the Command Headquarters of the Iraqi Army deep inside enemy territory southwest of Minu Islands at 13:00 hours (09:30 hours GMT) Thursday. The headquarters was destroyed.

A military communique published by Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters here Thursday said that the Iranian jet fighters after successfully carrying out their mission all returned to their bases safely.

The raid was in continuation of a chain operations carried out by Iranian jet fighters to annihilate the Iraqi forces.

Communique No 2415
LD201723 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire heavily pounded Iraqi positions as well as oil installation of Naft Khaneh and Banmil in the western fronts Wednesday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 2415 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian Muslim forces carried out 21 combat-patrol missions in pre-determined areas in the northwestern fronts gathering necessary information and dealing blows to the Iraqi forces. They also continued shelling enemy supply routes and positions.

In areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, Iranian forces checked engineering operations of Iraqi troops and forced an Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate their positions to flee, said the command.

The communique said that exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops continued in the southern fronts raging somewhat more heavily in Al-Faw peninsula and the Majnun Islands.

Iran's Islamic forces halted reinforcement of Iraqi troops as well as transport of their motorized units and prevented them from setting up mine fields in Chazzabah and Yebis, according to the Joint Staff Command.

In Halaleh and Kani Sheykh, the communique said transport of Iraqi armoured units and vehicles carrying personnel were reconnoitered and stopped by Iranian Muslim combatants.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the Iranian new year beginning March 21st, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces paid tribute to martyrs of the Islamic revolution of Iran and expressed congratulation to the Armed Forces commander-in-chief and Iranian nation.

Iraq Bombs Khuzestan Village
LD201707 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 20, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombarded Gildari, a suburban village of Shadegan in Khuzestan Province at 13:35 hours GMT) Thursday.

A 60-year-old man and a 15 year old youth who were working on a farm were martyred, two others injured and a mini-bus suffered damage in the Iraqi aerial raid.

'Limited Offensive' in Mehran
LD201832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Islamic warriors this morning, during the course of a limited offensive in the operational region of Mehran inflicted some damage on the Zionist enemy. We draw your attention to a report from our correspondent: Following the victories of the Armed Forces and the God-seeking Islamic Forces in the "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations, in the early hours of this morning the Islamic forces launched a limited offensive in the operational region of Mehran to destroy Ba'thist enemy military formations and attacked the enemy. Once again they showed they can defeat the deceived forces of Saddam. The Islamic forces during the operations killed 30 and injured 50 of the Ba'thist infidels and also destroyed 12 slit-trenches, 7 observation posts, 5 machinegun emplacements, 6 mortar launchers of various types, and 5 heavy machineguns.

The forces then returned to their bases safely.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' Communique No 25
LD211149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Communique No 25 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpt] O ye Muslim and resistant nation! It is the occasion of the birth anniversary of the ninth star in the firmament of rule by the canonist, the holy Imam Mohammad Taqi — may God's peace be upon him — and the arrival of the new year. On this occation the combatants of Islam, being grateful for the boundless grace of God, the bestower of favors, in granting numerous and impressive victories, have, in unison, along the whole length of the battlefronts, fired star shells, passed greetings to each other, and expressed hopes and desires for the greatness and glory of Islam and Muslims. The combatants of Islam sent messages stating that the true feat and festival will be that day when the roots of injustice, sedition, and corruption are eliminated in the whole globe. They added: Through our continued presence on the battlefronts of war, and through our relentless combat, we have prevented the enemy from embarking on any form of activity and renewed reorganization of enemy forces, and with the assistance of God Almighty, we shall deliver harder blows on the enemy.

The heroic, blasphemy-defeaters of Islam, by firing special shells carrying announcements and by setting up numerous loudspeakers along the length of the battlefronts, especially the front line of the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector, sent messages in the Arabic language to Iraqi troops. In these messages the powerful combatants of Islam called on the Iraqi Army to come to their senses as soon as possible; to stop supporting and backing the criminal Saddam and his Zionist-Ba'thist Party, who are the cause of inflaming the war; to take refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran; or to join the Iraqi, Muslim mujahidin and thereby rush to the loving bosom of Islam.

The combatants of Islam, through the full volume of their fire, once again proved their military and power and supremacy, and for the second time deployed heavy long-range artillery fire on the jetty of the beseiged naval base of the Iraqis in Umm Qasr, 52 km inside Iraqi territory. A lot of losses and casualties were inflicted on the Saddamists.

Areas in Ahvaz Reportedly Damaged by Iraqi Attacks

GF201832 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] A report concerning previously broadcast news indicates that in the attack by Iraqis the day before yesterday on a southern suburb of Ahvaz and the bombardment of Khuzestan Province by Iraqis, the military camp at Hamidiyeh on the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr railroad was badly damaged. The report said that more than 350 soldiers and revolution guards were killed in the attack. All drinking water storage, electricity installations, and communications centers of the Army were destroyed. Our correspondent in Khuzestan Province reports that the electric supply of Ahvaz City has been cut. The bakers remain open for only 2 hours a day and consumer goods are totally unavailable. There is also a rumor circulating the city that 180 Basij personnel, who were awaiting transportation to the Khatam ol-Anbiya' front in Ahvaz have fled from the city with their arms and ammunition.

Clandestine Notes Conflicts Among Armed Forces

GF161636 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Esteemed listeners: We wish to draw your attention to a report we have received from nationalist elements (?in Tehran).

This report indicates the schism and discord in the ranks of the corps and the mobilization and their differences with the Armed Forces of Iran. In the last days of the year 1364 [Iranian year] we Iranians are in the throes of the most difficult days of our lives in the past few years of sedition. It is not coincidental that the Khomeyni regime fans the flames of war increasingly on the eve of the new year in a way that it rains blood from heaven and earth and parents don their mourning garb instead of their festive apparel.

It would not be out of place if we present the latest reports on this war to you at this juncture. The efforts of the Islamic Republic's leaders to forge unity among the Armed Forces and the corps and the mobilization are being hampered even though a war is in progress. Despite the sagacious counsel of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the last word of the one who is ostensibly their supporter and unifying factor, they are (?in fact) enemies of one another and live in a state of friction animosity, and uneasy cohabitation.

If Khomeyni had not fanned the flames of the war on the fronts, the wave of differences would have been higher.

In an attempt to probe and confirm this state of affairs we managed to obtain an important classified document which was issued after a violent clash at the end of the month of Azar [22 November to 21 December] in one of the military organizations between the Guards' Corps and the Armed Forces' personnel. Please listen to the text of this document:

From [name indistinct] to a list of recipients: Number 61/204-11/13 dated 1/10/64 [22 December 1985]

Subject: Clash between the personnel of the Guards' Corps and the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces.

Whatever has taken place until now has been under the same statements [sentence as heard] — Imam Khomeyni.

1. According to reports received from various districts the Guards' Corps personnel entered the area under the jurisdiction of the Army units of the Islamic Republic and occupied a section of the Armed Forces base compound.

2. Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, sections of the Armed Forces bases were placed at the disposal of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps of Iran in order to promote cooperation among the various branches. The Guards' Corps personnel expanded the area under their control and occupied most of the area in the bases. As a result of these actions a clash took place between the corps and Armed Forces of Iran personnel.

3. In view of the fact that such clashes are capitalized upon by the counterrevolutionary elements and the enemy fifth column for propagandistic purposes, the details of the clash have been referred to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces in order to resolve the existing problems. It is reiterated that the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps have been briefed and that the Armed Forces must also refrain from falling into a trap of discord and clashing with the corps. As of today, all matters must be resolved amicably and with unity.

Copies of instructions are being sent for your information and I request that necessary orders be issued so that I can duly inform all the commanders and officials.

[Signed] [Word indistinct] Colonel Bahrami, the Islamic Republic of Iran headquarters.

The document that was read out indicates that after a period of 7 years, (?intimidation) maintains its unchangeable stance and continues thus despite all dangers.

Lebanon's Fadlallah Comments on Al-Jumayyil's Rule

LD152057 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Beirut, March 15, IRNA — The ruling regime of Lebanon is an obstacle to the progress of the country, said Al-'Allamah Muhammad Fadlallah in friday prayers sermon here.

Speaking at the Imam Rida mosque, in the Lebanese capital Fadlallah warned that if the U.S. continues to prop up the government of Amin al-Jumayyil then the nation will suffer from such rule.

Fadlallah also condemned the spate of kidnapping in the country especially non-Muslims, saying that no one is allowed to deprive others of their liberty.

He furthermore emphasised that he is adamantly opposed to the disintegration of the country.

Meanwhile, Friday prayers leader of Al-Nabishit village, eastern Lebanon, Shaykh Muhammad Khatun in his sermon spoke on the plots hatched by the arrogant governments against the Islamic revolution. He said their plots stemmed from their fear of the power of the revolution and Iran's victory in the Iraqi imposed imposed war. He also asked why those governments did not manifest their concern at the outbreak of the Iraqi aggression and had done so once it became clear that the Iranian Muslim combatants hold the vantage position in the war.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Government-Soviet Troops

In Ghazni, Paktika

LD142029 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 14, IRNA — The reports received from Ghazni Province stated that the mujahideen of Harkat-e Enqelabi Islami on February 22 ambushed the Soviet Karmal troops near (Askar Kot) town.

In the course of the attack 11 Soviet Karmal troops were killed and four mujahids were martyred while two Karmal troops joined the mujahideen.

The mujahideen foiled another attack in Dawran Khel area where the invading forces fled leaving behind the wreckage of a tank.

Mujahideen on February 28 blasted an armoured car and a truck loaded with ammunition in Paktika. Three mujahids also sacrificed their lives.

In Nangahar

LD172143 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 17, IRNA — A joint Karmal and Soviet troops' camp 7 kilometers from Nazian Township in Shinwar division of Nangarhar Province has been totally destroyed by mojahidin. Nazian was the scene of the bloodiest clashes in Nangarhar last month.

The offensive was dislodged by a joint resistance of various groups of mujahideen, Hezb-i Eslami, Etehad-e Eslami for the liberation of Afghanistan, Hezb-e-Eslami (Khales group) and Karakat Enqilab-ye Islami (Mansur group)

The latest attack on March 8 was commanded by Mr. Hikmatyar, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami. He has been in Nangrahar since mid February to re-organise mojahideen loyal to him.